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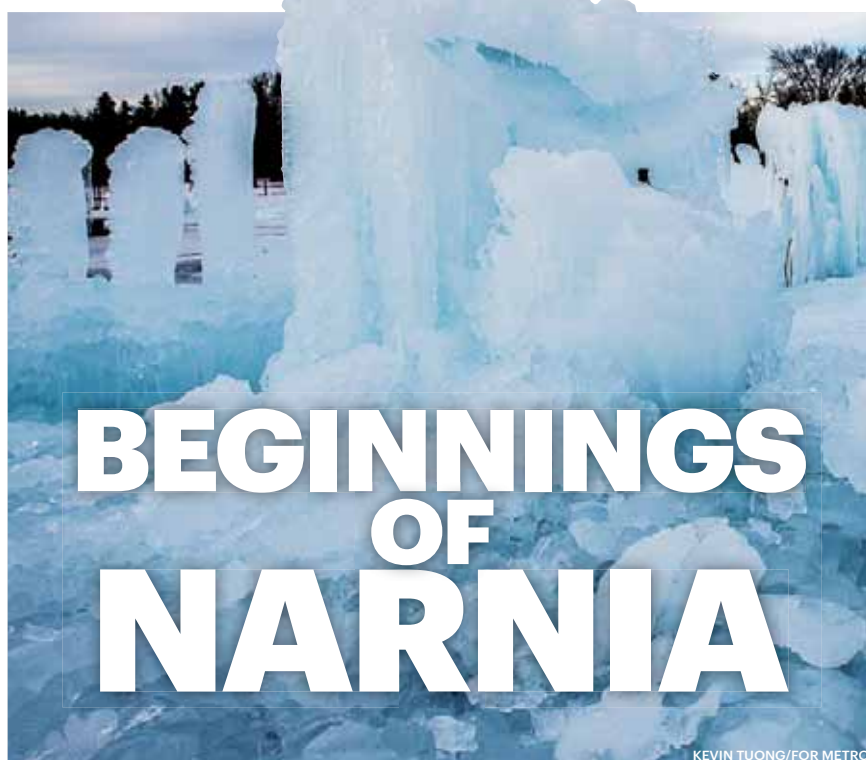
Edmonton metro

FILM FRIDAYS
Tom Hardy talks about *Legend*
and three more movies
metroLIFE



Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, DECEMBER 4-6, 2015

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BEGINNINGS OF NARNIA

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

The ice castle under construction in Hawrelak Park is beginning to take shape and will be set to dazzle by the end of the month

Emergency housing expenses on the rise

PROJECT WATCH

Use of pricey motels linked to downturn in economy



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

The Alberta government's dependence on expensive motels for emergency housing continues to grow despite a concerted effort to change the situation, which has left many forced to live in squalid conditions.

In the province's 2014 - 2015 fiscal year, 2,412 people were housed on an emergency basis in Edmonton and 448 in Calgary, at a cost of \$6.7 million.

Earlier this year, Metro reported many of the motels used for emergency housing

had become part of an investigation dubbed "Project Watch."

That investigation revealed many of the motels being used for housing were in squalid conditions.

Since those reports, the province has found permanent housing for 197 families and has blacklisted several motels, but demand has grown — in just the first seven months of this fiscal year, the province housed 1,404 clients in Edmonton and 110 in Calgary at a cost of roughly \$4 million.

While Calgary's numbers are on the decline, it appears Edmonton's could eclipse last year's totals.

Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir said the problem is linked to the difficult economy.

"Part of the reason the number went up is that demand for those services has gone up as well," he said.

Sabir said the government

\$6.7M

Cost to the Alberta government of housing 2,412 people in emergency housing.

is dedicating more funding to women's shelters and preventive measures in an effort to help people before they need emergency housing.

The long-term solution, he added, is a strategy to build more affordable housing.

"We need to work with our partners in the community to come up with permanent solutions," he said.

Sabir said the one positive is the government is able to lower the amount of time families are living in motels.

"With some vacancy in the housing market, we are able to find housing quicker than was the case before," he said.

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SAMARA CANADA

Local Cree man honoured

A man from Saddle Lake Cree First Nation who lives in Edmonton has been selected as a 2015 Everyday Political Citizen by Samara Canada.

Cory Nicotine, 26, said he appreciates the recognition, but as an introvert, isn't keen on the attention.

He said connecting with people and being active politically "is easy" for him and never feels like work.

“

We are all human beings, that's what it all comes down to.

Cory Nicotine

Nicotine received the honour in part for organizing political engagement sessions called Knowledge is Powwow for vulnerable youth from diverse backgrounds, and taking a small group to vote.

Diversity and openness is important to Nicotine, who says, "a smile means the same and a laugh is the same in every language."

His next cause is combating xenophobia "and raising awareness" of what he calls "an irrational fear of people." He's planning a pot-luck with comedy and other meetings next month with the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and people from different backgrounds.

"We are all human beings, that's what it all comes down to," he said.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Groups work to find housing for refugees

IMMIGRATION

City 'has come together' to offer options and support



Braeden Jones
Metro | Edmonton

Organizations at the centre of Edmonton's efforts to settle refugees continue to prepare for an influx, as each day more information becomes available.

"We're starting to get a better sense of the numbers," said Erick Ambtman, executive director of the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, adding that about 3,000 Syrian refugees are bound for Alberta, with "over half" coming to Edmonton.

In the meantime, Ambtman has been working on a plan to consolidate every way Edmontonians can help.

"We will put out a notice at some point saying if you want to do anything to support or welcome, call this number or email this email address," he said.

"It's just so people have a centralized triaging area as opposed to figuring out which agency is doing what."

Ambtman expects the service to launch early next week



A crowd gathers in COSTI Immigrant Services as John McCallum, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, speaks to media on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

once he's got all relevant agencies on board.

Housing has proven a key worry.

Catholic Social Services, another group at the centre of settlement efforts, said they're still keen to find more housing options.

"We are going to be able to house people," said spokesman Jason Garipey, who added that "the whole community has come together" to offer housing

in various ways.

But he explained "it's not just about finding housing, but about finding the right type of housing for the family."

According to Garipey, some larger families are harder to place, as are single individuals.

"So, if people are aware of different kinds of housing we'd like them to reach out."

He said having housing options that suit specific needs rather than just sufficient sup-

ply "results in a much better experience and transition."

Garipey said so far Catholic Social Services has received "hundreds of housing options," including secondary suites, available apartments, and generous offers from real estate owners like Boardwalk.

"But if (people) are aware of housing choices, please let us know. At the end of the day we have to find the right home for the family," he said.

A recently released Citizenship and Immigration Canada report provides a snapshot of Syrians the country is expecting to welcome as it does its part to shelter them from the ravages of war.

43%

The estimated percentage of refugees who are survivors of violence or torture.

85%

The vast majority of refugees coming from non-camp environments such as urban centres or makeshift dwellings.

46%

The percentage of Syrians relocated to Canada in 2014 that knew at least one of Canada's official languages.

84%

The percentage of Syria's population estimated to be literate, 90 per cent of men and 77 per cent of women.

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CRIME

Police give chase as two flee in hot cars

An alleged shoplifting incident early Thursday morning turned into a 90-minute crime spree that saw 55 Edmonton police officers and the RCMP in hot pursuit of a duo in several stolen cars.

Police were first called just after midnight to a reported shoplifting incident in a parkade near 109 Street and Whyte Avenue.

A man and a woman fled the parkade in a stolen Toyota Tundra and collided with a police cruiser.

The two then abandoned the vehicle in the Belgravia neighbourhood and tried to break into three homes, the first at gunpoint with the homeowner, according to police.

They then stole a Volkswagen Tiguan from another residence and drove it more than 150 km/h in the wrong direction down one-way Gateway Boulevard, according to police.

As a police helicopter tracked them overhead, they then robbed a store clerk at a convenience store near 17 Street and 23 Avenue at gunpoint, before fleeing northbound onto the Whitemud and Anthony Henday Drive. A minor collision and a failed carjacking with the same vehicle

“Even later today officers are still doing the paperwork.”

Scott Pattison

ensued, according to police.

The suspects then drove north onto Range Road 233 into Sherwood Park, where tactical and canine police were able to stop them at around 1:25 a.m.

But, police said, the pair then ran from the scene.

Jake Wells, 23, and Adara Gunnarson, 26, are facing a long list of charges that officers are still finalizing. These including weapons offences, breaking and entering and armed robbery.

Police spokesman Scott Pattison said the event stretched police resources and resulted in hours of paperwork.

“This is just one call out of 150,000 that require police response this year,” Pattison said. “There are many frequent incidents where multiple units need to respond. Even later today officers are still doing the paperwork.” ANDREA ROSS/METRO



Police investigate the scene of a fatal altercation outside Duster's Pub in the city's north end. ANDREA ROSS/METRO

Scuffle outside bar ends in man's death

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

Police gather evidence near Duster's Pub early Thursday



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

Homicide detectives are investigating the area near a north-end bar, because a man died following an altercation there early Thursday morning.

Edmonton police said the incident happened around 1:25 a.m. outside Duster's Pub, at 118 Avenue and 64 Street. The victim was treated at the scene and taken to the hospital, where he later died from his injuries.

At about 9 a.m. Thursday, police had taped off the pub's back parking lot and investigators were walking among the parked vehicles, shining flashlights on the ground. Detectives could be seen going door-to-door, speaking with residents.

A folded blanket and blue pillow were laying in the snow,

“I heard the shots and a woman screaming.”

Monica Kardos

beside a large pool of blood, behind Mama's Daycare, which is next door to the pub. Orange pylons marked more blood beside a grey truck in the parking lot.

Monica Kardos was visiting her son's house behind the pub when, she said, she heard three or four gunshots from a nearby

alley at around 1:30 a.m.

Her son, Jeffrey Bur, said he saw a man lying in the alley shortly afterward. There were two police vehicles on the scene.

Kardos added police were walking around the neighbourhood, scouring the ground by flashlight in the hours that followed.

She and her son both had a hard time sleeping after hearing the commotion.

“I heard the shots and a woman screaming,” she said. “It was scary.”

An autopsy has been scheduled for Friday morning.

IN BRIEF

Lottery winner tight-lipped

An Edmonton man did not tell his wife for several days that he held a winning Lotto Max ticket for \$30 million.

Mauro Bagnariol did tell his mother right away, however. Bagnariol says he was on his way home after visiting his mom when he checked his ticket for the Nov. 6 draw, which had a \$60 million jackpot. He was one of two winners.

Bagnariol then went back and told his mother but didn't want to take the spotlight away from his grandson's birthday party in Calgary that weekend. Instead he told his wife, Helena, on the drive back to Edmonton. Helena said she was OK with that.

Bagnariol, a retiree for about three years, will help his children with their mortgages and also give some to charity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Starting in 2010 with the sale of land lots on the Ecuadorian Pacific coast, HolaEcuador, a Canadian company is now into its sixth year offering diversified real estate opportunities and a wide array of services. Every year, the team helps hundreds of Canadians acquire property in South America.

Comfortable year-round weather, low cost of living (about three times lower than in Canada), an incredible diversity of natural scenery, an efficient and affordable healthcare system and benefits for retirees makes Ecuador more and more attractive to North Americans who wish to have a second home under the sun or who would literally like to retire and relocate to this marvellous part of the world.

75% SOLD

"The development on which we're currently working is a 130 acre property that sits directly in front of the Pacific Ocean", states Gordon Poole, Vice-President of Design and Construction. "It is located 60 kilometers south of Manta, the regional capital. Of the 1,700 lots on the development, there are only about 350 left unsold", he adds.

"Infrastructure is coming along quickly, and home construction is well underway, with 125 homes completed and many more starting this year. A beautiful outdoor sports facility is operational, businesses are beginning to set up shop and the parks are breathtaking. A few years from now, this little slice of heaven will be the envy of investors who didn't seize the opportunity", says Poole.

WELL-KEPT SECRET

For now, Ecuador remains a relatively well-kept secret. Properties are much more affordable than in similar destinations. "Prices reflect what was available in Costa Rica 15 years ago, but in a country where first-rate and modern infrastructure is already in place," says Poole. "The country is amongst the safest in Latin America and the currency is the US dollar, which is very reassuring for investors," he adds.

Lots on HolaEcuador's Pacific coast development start at US \$22 600, while construction of a two-bedroom, one-bathroom house starts at US \$69 900.



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HolaEcuador is offering free informational seminars in several locations across Canada. These sessions are the perfect opportunity to discover more about the advantages of property ownership, living and investing in Ecuador. In addition, you'll become familiar with the many attributes of this real estate development as well as the essentials of property acquisition in this beautiful country in Latin America.

Free informational seminars

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More than 1,000 people gathered outside the Alberta Legislature for yet another expression of protest against the government's proposed farm bill. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Notley stands firm on farm safety bill

BILL 6

Calls for injury compensation benefits, health rules

Premier Rachel Notley moved Thursday to quell a maelstrom of discontent over her farm safety bill by saying it's foremost about safety and dignity.

"I will never be able to accept the fact that injuries and deaths caused by workplace accidents (on the farm) are simply a fact of life," Notley said at a media availability.

"I could not — and cannot in good conscience — and will not ignore the lessons of their losses.

"We will pass this bill this fall. Those wage-earning farm workers will receive compensation (if

injured) and will have the right to refuse unsafe work."

Notley added that the government will talk to farmers in the coming months about how to "tweak the other newly applied rules in a way that respects the family farm, just as has been done in every other province in the country."

Notley once worked as a Workers' Compensation Board injury claims lawyer and, in response to a question, agreed that the farm safety bill has special meaning for her.

"It is a little bit personal."

She said she has long been disturbed that in a province built on the ethos of people helping people, "we somehow have this little exclusion, where paid farm workers, who are often the most vulnerable workers we have, are somehow exempted from the most basic of employment

protections."

It was Notley's first day back at the legislature following a trip to Paris for the UN-sponsored climate change summit.

There have been several protests and demonstrations by farm groups over the proposed farm legislation.

The bill calls for injury compensation benefits and occupational health and safety rules for 60,000 farm workers across Alberta. It also introduces workplace standards on commercial aspects of farming as well as the right for workers to bargain collectively.

Farmers, and opposition leaders, have argued the bill is trying to do too much too fast, threatens the viability of family farms and could rip the cultural fabric of rural life.

They are asking Notley to pull it pending further consultation.

Earlier Thursday, more than 1,000 protesters rallied on the steps of the legislature as a singer mocked Notley to the tune of the popular children's song "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

I will never be able to accept the fact that injuries and deaths ... (on the farm) are simply a fact of life. Premier Rachel Notley

WINDERMERE

Man charged with double murder

An Edmonton man is facing murder charges after two people were found dead in a car in Windermere in October.

Philip Jason Vanderwell, 27, has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder in relation to the deaths of Daniel Fullerton and Dianna Wilk, both 28, on the evening of Oct. 30.

Fullerton and Wilk were found dead in the front seat of a vehicle

parked on the street in Windermere, in south Edmonton. Police called to the area after someone passing by the vehicle noticed the bodies. Autopsies later showed they died of gunshot wounds.

Police say they are not releasing information at this time as the investigation continues.

Wilk's friend, April Pinder, told Metro in November that the 28-year-old was the young-

est of three girls and wanted to return to school to become a forensic scientist.

"She was the baby of her family and the light of so many people's lives, and nothing will ever be the same again after losing her," Pinder said. "There are so many unanswered questions and I hope they find out who did this to her."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Cuts will hinder police: Union

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Investigations, response time will suffer, says president



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

The more than \$40-million shortfall between what the Edmonton Police requested and got from city council this week will lead to noticeable cuts in capabilities, according to the president of the police association.

City councillors voted Tuesday to boost the police budget by about \$8.5 million over the next three years, far less than the \$49.1 million the force requested.

Edmonton Police Association President Sgt. Maurice Brodeur said he expects the force will have to use officers currently in special units to cover the rising demand for patrol officers.



Edmonton Police recruits line up for a graduation ceremony. METRO FILE

This year, police have responded to 12,000 more calls for service than in 2014.

"Every specialized unit will be looked at and they will trim down as tight as they

possibly can to fill the needs of the street," he said.

"Front-line policing is the primary need of service and so you are going to have to take from Peter to pay Paul."

Brodeur said stripping investigative units could also make it difficult for police to handle large fraud investigations or other major cases and response times may

“Front-line policing is the primary need of service ... you are going to have to take from Peter to pay Paul.”

Sgt. Maurice Brodeur

continue to suffer.

"Either on the front end or the back end you are going to get less police services," he said.

Mayor Don Iveson said he appreciates all the work officers do and expects Police Chief Rod Knecht to handle the budget realities effectively.

"I know the front line members work very, very hard, but I think look to the chief who understands the constraints we are under," he said.

"He has said they will re-prioritize appropriately and I am confident he will do so in a way that will protect public and officer safety."

GIVING BACK

Rolling salon in van gives fresh start to homeless

Misty Wind Shingoose said the difficulties she's experienced in her own life have taught her that no matter what, there's always the chance and choice to "walk forward into a good light."

The 30-year-old hairstylist has made her share of bad decisions and had many personal setbacks, but said she's found a way to give back to her community through #homelesshaircuttyc, or #Mistys-Miracles, as her friends like to call it.

Shingoose has since converted a van to suit her salon needs and spends every Sunday downtown giving out haircuts, clothing and other essentials to Calgarians in need.

Shingoose said it all began about a year ago.

"It was my 30th birthday, and I decided to instead do a fundraiser so I could convert a van into a salon and do it on my own accord without having to go through a whole lot of red tape or looking back into my difficult past," she said.

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COURT

Vanished couple's son stands by RCMP

The son of an elderly couple believed to be dead after vanishing on a trip to B.C. says he doesn't hold any grudge against the RCMP for what a courtroom has been told was their mishandling of evidence disclosure in the case.

Brett McCann has been attending a pre-trial hearing this week for Travis Vader, who is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the 2010 deaths of Lyle and Maria Mc-

Cann. The hearing is looking into arguments by Vader's lawyer, Brian Beresh, that a nearly four-year delay in getting the matter to trial constitutes an abuse of process by the Crown.

Earlier this week, Michelle Doyle, Edmonton's chief prosecutor, called the disclosure of evidence by RCMP "a fiasco."

She said she decided to stay the charges against Vader, who had initially been charged in 2012, two years later because

she had lost confidence in the RCMP getting full disclosure to her in a timely manner.

Nine months later, the charges were re-laid and a trial before a judge alone is now scheduled for March 2016.

"Attending these sessions has really renewed my confidence in both the RCMP and in the Crown," Brett McCann said Thursday. "The stay was due to mishandling by the RCMP, and I'm not really blaming

the RCMP, but this massive and complex set of evidence records sounds like it was a formidable thing and it was mishandled."

He said he believes Doyle did the right thing in not proceeding to trial in 2014.

Beresh has suggested the 2014 stay was just a way to buy time so the RCMP would have longer to investigate the case, something Doyle has denied.

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Jim Johansson and Vikki Wiercinski co-created Royal Bison in 2007. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Duo reveal top vendors

CRAFT FAIR

Bison's royalty share picks for this weekend's 20th run

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

You probably know of Royal Bison, the hip arts-and-crafts fair that sees Edmonton rock its maker badge, full stop, and has drawn attention from as far away as Buzzfeed, which named it a top fair in North America.

But what you may not know is that Vikki Wiercinski and husband Jim Johansson — who you may hand some money to at the door, if not to buy their wares — take extreme care deciding which vendors fill the 70 or so spots at the Cosmopolitan Music Society in Old Strathcona.

Each is there "intentionally," says Wiercinski, who along with Johansson brings together an artist jury to curate the show.

"Other craft fairs are about

shopping," she says. "In an underhanded way, we're a bit of a gallery space."

With the 20th iteration of the Bison set to open today and run until Sunday, Metro asked Wiercinski and Johansson to highlight their three must-see tables at the show:

1. **Sweetie Pie Records**

"They're supporting the local music scene in Edmonton," Wiercinski says. "They've got a table with music and also made our Royal Bison playlist. So, all our music is 100 per cent local."

2. **Tomnuk Design**

"Industrial design is becoming a thing in Edmonton," Wiercinski says, and adds Jordan Tomnuk has been mentored by a master and is now creating beautiful objects out of wood for the home.

3) **Leviticus Goods**

"In terms of unique and quirk, we have a 15-year-old kid (Levi Wiebe) who goes by the name Leviticus," Wiercinski says. "He's some sort of leather craft prodigy in the making. He's our youngest vendor, ever, making wallets and change holders in his basement. He was encouraged to apply by his teacher at his school."

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The City of Edmonton will be blading neighbourhood roads on a set day again this year. That means that just like your waste pick-up schedule, **the day of the week that crews will blade residential streets will be the same throughout the snow season.**

Knowing when winter roadway maintenance will happen means you'll know when to move your vehicle so that crews can do the best job possible, and can help you avoid getting your car stuck behind a windrow!

You'll be able to find out which day of the week has been chosen for your area when the City of Edmonton announces its first blading cycle. You can visit www.edmonton.ca/winterroads at that time to use the interactive map or call 311.

Please remember that crews work around the clock during blading, and can be on your street at any time during the 24 hours designated. If crews are unable to complete your area on your designated day, they will be back on the weekend to finish the work.



Blading trucks smooth the snow pack on roads to a maximum 5 cm base. Windrows will be kept to a maximum height of 30 cm in front of driveways.



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www.edmonton.ca/winterroads



City councillors debated the 2016-2018 budget for three days this week. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Tax hikes okayed for next 3 years

BUDGET

Some worry that oil prices will depress 2016 revenues



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton taxpayers will pay more next year and for two years after that after city council passed its first three-year operating budget on Thursday.

Taxes will rise 3.4 per cent in 2016 and 2017, and by 4.8 per cent in 2018. For the average Edmonton home that will mean cost increases of \$76 in 2016, \$78 in 2017 and \$114 in 2018.

Mayor Don Iveson said council did all it could to trim

the increase, but the city's expenses don't change even in tough economic times.

"That is essentially the cost of doing business for a municipality," he said.

The approved budget will pay for new staff at recreation centres, libraries and fire stations, which the city has opened in recent years, and help cover the cost of the new LRT line to Mill Woods.

But in a departure from previous years, councillors held the line on growing the police budget, while funding more preventive programs and budgeting less for areas that should be the provincial government's responsibility.

Iveson said the city has been paying for things that it shouldn't for too long.

"For several years the City of Edmonton was experiencing huge growth and we were also experiencing a huge

influx of people, and to some extent we were able to absorb some of those things," he said.

Coun. Mike Nickel said the budget will do for 2016, but said he's concerned about spending in 2017, when the city will feel the drop in oil prices that began this year.

"This isn't the tough budget; 2017 is the tough budget. That is when the economic realities that have hit Calgary will hit Edmonton," he said.

Council deferred decisions on many programs until the spring, which Nickel said frustrated him.

"We punted so much stuff down the road instead of just making the decision."

The tax increase will also come with increases to garbage collections costs, which will rise by \$2.31 per month in 2016, \$2.16 in 2017 and \$2.56 in 2018.

SERVICES

'Comprehensive review' of city spending in the works

Following a budget that includes three years of tax increases, the city also intends to spend three years and \$3.75 million on a deep review to discover where it can save money.

On Thursday, city administrators brought back preliminary details on a service review that councillors called for earlier this month.

Acting city manager Linda Cochrane said the basic idea of the review is to decide where the city should be looking for

savings in the future.

"This is a city on the cusp of greatness and on the cusp of being a significantly different city than it has been," she said.

"This will be a comprehensive review."

Cochrane told council they will look at everything the city does with an eye to analyzing if it could be done better — or if it even needs to be done by the city at all.

Coun. Dave Loken sought assurances that the city would

not just be looking for dollars and cents, but for value.

"The emphasis should not be on costs and dollars and cents, it should be focused on the quality of that service and the efficiency of that service."

Cochrane said that's why the city does not intend to set a dollar target for savings.

"If we put the money first and foremost than we lose the richness of the dialogue," she said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

A closer look at the city's budget

MUNICIPAL WORKS

Sunny days ahead for snow inspectors and commuters



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

The city's three-year, multi-billion operating budget passed Thursday. Here are a few items that made the cut during the last day of votes, and a few that didn't.

1) Mill Creek

Mill Creek moved closer to flowing in the open again, as councillors gave the idea to daylight it \$250,000 for planning work.

The proposal was given money to study what would need to happen to bring the long-buried creek back to connect with the North Saskatchewan River. The creek was buried to make way for a freeway (which was ultimately never built in the area) around the Muttart Conservatory.

Coun. Ben Henderson said finishing planning is an important first step, and if it goes well other levels of government may even fund the project.

"The province and the feds are very keen to see it happen. They may even pay to have it happen," he said.

2) Snow inspectors

Edmonton residents complaining about poor snow clearing will have new ears to bend, after councillors approved more money for inspectors.

Coun. Dave Loken said the funding — budgeted at \$302,000 next year, with an additional \$316,000 in 2017 and \$22,000 in 2018 — will reduce snow complaints during the winter. He said the money



Expect a slight increase on fares next year, but don't expect a low-income bus pass. CREDIT: METRO FILE

will also help deal with potholes and construction problems the rest of the year.

"By putting these positions in place, we're not only going to get that scrutiny and coverage in the wintertime, we are going to get it all year round," he said.

The five new snow inspectors will be the first new positions in this area since 1985.

3) Transit hike spared

Mayor Don Iveson said the city's transit service isn't strong enough to justify a fare hike up to \$3.50. Administration proposed increasing fares to \$3.25 next year and \$3.50 in 2017. Iveson said, with the city reviewing service levels and trying to bring in smart fares, now is not the time to put a big increase.

"I don't think we are offering people good enough service to charge people \$3.50," he said.

4) Low-Income Pass

City councillors still want to offer a low-income pass for transit riders but those hoping for it will have to wait. Councillors voted to fund the pass, but with less money than what

they initially proposed, which means it will likely be at least 2017 before passes are actually handed out.

"Of course it gives me disappointment to not be able to move on this this fall," Iveson said. He said he expects the province to help fund this initiative and hopes they will commit to the idea.

"I think we now have time to work this out."

5) DATS Service

Disabled Adult Transit Service will be able to handle 13,500 more trips next year after councillors voted to boost the services' funding.

Coun. Dave Loken said this service is essential to so many of its users.

"We're talking about a lot of people in need who really need this service," he said.

Mayor Don Iveson also championed the funding, but said he would also like to see some provincial supports, because so many people use it for health appointments.

"There is a point at which our health care system and our transit system start to have some overlap."



A city plow clears part of downtown. METRO FILE

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The Power to Surprise



Schools to form LGBTQ policy

EDUCATION

61 boards asked to submit by March 31



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

School boards across the province will be getting more direction in January from Alberta Education on how to structure LGBTQ.

Education Minister David Eggen has asked all 61 school boards to create policy, to be submitted for review by March 31, 2016. A previous Metro investigation revealed only about 25 per cent of Alberta school boards already had a policy in place.

In an interview with Metro, Eggen said he has high expectations of each policy.

"People have to adhere to the letter of the law," he said. "People can develop their own policy.

That's an organic way which people can internalize and own what they're faced to do. But the law doesn't change."

Rebecca Sullivan, director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Calgary, said it's vital for school boards to have a clear indication of the essential elements of the policy. Sullivan said any policy must be drafted in a way that gives security and dignity to gender and sexually marginalized students, and isn't framed around community standards or fundamental values.

"Often that's code for, 'We need to preserve the right to continue to oppress the most marginalized people who do not fit our community standards.' This has been really clear in the trans debate where the decision was, no, we cannot allow a trans girl to use the girls washroom because it makes us uncomfortable," said Sullivan, referencing a recent controversy in the Edmonton Catholic School District. "Get over yourself.

"If you're a girl, you should

"We can do this in a very civilized, reasonable and organic sort of way to ensure that people are not discriminated against based on sexuality ... It's 2015, man."

David Eggen

use the girls' washroom."

She said key areas to consider are rights to gender and sexual expression, and the right to access spaces to which students are affiliated, the right to bodily autonomy and the right to consent.

"Laying out a few principles could be really helpful for these vast bureaucracies to not play guessing games," she said.



Education Minister David Eggen is working on specific guidelines for Alberta's school board to draft a policy that protects LGBTQ students. CANADIAN PRESS FILE

GSA UPDATE

Minister enforcing Bill 10

Education Minister David Eggen feels the previous government didn't have enough structures in place to support setting up Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) in schools — a process he's been tackling since entering office.

In an interview with Metro, Eggen said he felt that when the Progressive Conservatives set up Bill 10, they didn't build a solid infrastructure around it. Bill 10 requires the establishment of GSAs in schools where students request it.

"There was a law on paper, but it's like a speeding law with no cops to actually stop the cars," he said. "We're there and we're executing it. We're actually getting the job done. It's been a challenge for sure, but it's worthwhile."

Eggen said he has met with every one of the 61 Alberta school boards to ensure they're fulfilling their duties and going through with the process. AARON CHATHA/METRO

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It's frantic but so festive

EVENTS

The city's most interesting person shares weekend plans



HOW TO DOUGLAS

Douglas Dollars

ALL WEEKEND:

Well, we survived all the markets last week, and this week the one still looking to be alive and mighty is The Royal Bison Craft & Art Fair at 8426 Gateway Blvd. And good for them, because I still need to do all of my holiday shopping. Open Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Bison is my favorite twice-yearly look into what's happening in Edmonton (and area) art, craft and design.

Goodbye, Hello Closing Party (Royal Alberta Museum — 12845 102 Avenue)

Beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing around-the-clock until



Is Christmas really Christmas without some Santacon hijinks along the way? SUPPLIED

5 p.m. on Sunday, the Royal Alberta Museum is saying so-long until doors open at its new location. With 48 straight hours of fun, their schedule shows the kind of forward thinking I wish the current

building had contained and I hope the next one shall.

FRIDAY:

At 7 p.m., Edmonton Burlesque Fest kicks off a new festival year with a saucy

Christmas show, How The Stripper Stole Christmas: A Burlesque Revue at the Stanley Milner Library Theatre.

Following the burlesque show, on the south side of the river we have local new wave-inspired bands Cygnets and Moonmuseum making their return to Filthy McNasty's (10511 82 Avenue) at 8 p.m., and everyone's favorite parody-style karaoke show, Weird Al Karaoke, returns to Cha Island at 10332 81 Avenue at 9 p.m.

SATURDAY:

All day both Saturday and Sunday at the Old Strathcona Antique Mall (10323 78 Avenue) is their Vintage Jewelry Show and Sale. Also in the world of unique gifts that will last ages, the concrete artisans at Concrete Cat are holding a studio sale at their 5608 82 Avenue headquarters between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and will feature oddities and samples at up to 75 per cent savings.

I hope you've been nice because noon marks the return of Santacon (AKA Santarchy), the yearly celebration and 10

hour event of Santa-themed hi-jinx across downtown and Whyte. Dress in your reds and whites, and join in the fun at any time along their route.

PARKSHOW, the annual emerging fashion and art showcase, returns this year as well, to Simons in West Edmonton Mall, from 7 p.m. through 11 p.m.

Wrapping up the night is my favorite art auction, SNAP's yearly Print Affair, at 12056 Jasper Avenue. This show and sale of the best in Northern Albertan print art begins at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY:

Running on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., until the 20th, a new holiday-themed market at La Cité Franco-phone exists in the form of The Holiday Bazaar (8627 91 Street). With such variety in local markets there is no excuse for boring Xmas gifts.

From 3 p.m.-8 p.m. The Black Dog at 10425 82 Avenue hosts Dead Vinyl Society, the meet-up for record fans to buy, sell, and swap some of their favorite vinyl.

THE INTERVIEW

Keeping it red and white on the night

Two Santas participating in this weekend's 21st Annual Santacon/Santarchy have some tips for bringing some extra joy to the season. They insisted on anonymity. We will identify them as Santa.

Douglas: Any tips for first-time Santas?

Santa: Creativity is encouraged for Santacon outfits. It doesn't necessarily need to be a store-bought outfit; I usually go as an elf. People can fashion whatever holiday themed outfit they want, and that would be ideal dressing appropriately for the weather. Jolliness is highly encouraged. Good vibes encourage servers, bartenders and others to join in. Oftentimes, we'll bring extra suits and before you know it, the whole room is filled with cheer. Be respectful and treat everyone like they're on the "nice" list. That's our motto.

Douglas: Any other treats for the naughty or nice who come across the Santa gang?

Santa: Within the guidelines of Santacon it is suggested to have treats to hand out if people want to. Santas always love hugs and carols.

DOUGLAS DOLLARS/FOR METRO

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ENERGY

Regulator given thumbs-up

The Alberta government says the province's energy regulator is performing well and there are no plans to make major changes to the agency.

In the past, Premier Rachel Notley has voiced concerns that the Alberta Energy Regulator has responsibility for both promoting energy development and protecting the environ-

ment. Energy Minister Marg McCuaig-Boyd said Notley's comments have been misconstrued.

"She (Notley) and I have been clear since the beginning that we are not breaking up the AER," the minister said in an interview Thursday.

"It is working well. Industry likes it."

Last month the NDP announced a review of 300 government agencies and boards, including the AER, to ensure they are performing to the maximum benefits of Albertans.

A report on the first phase of this review is expected by March.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

18,112

The largest gathering of Santa Clauses was achieved by 18,112 people during an event organised by Thrissur Citizenry & Thrissur Archdiocese (India) for Buon Natale Programme 2014 in Kerala, India, on 27 December 2014. The event was organized to raise funds for the poor.

No purchase necessary. One entry per person, per day. Contest open to residents of the cities of Vancouver, BC, Calgary and Edmonton, AB, Winnipeg, MB, Ottawa and Toronto, ON, and Halifax, NS, who have attained the age of majority in their province of residence as at the start of the Contest Period. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in each city. Twenty (20) total prizes available to be won: six (6) in Toronto, four (4) in Vancouver, two (2) in Calgary, two (2) in Edmonton, two (2) in Halifax, two (2) in Ottawa, and two (2) in Winnipeg, consisting of a Don Cherry's Rock'em Sock'em Hockey 27 DVD. Approximate retail value of each prize is \$19.98 CDN. Each selected entrant must correctly answer, unaided, a mathematical skill-testing question to be declared a winner. Contest Period opens at 12:01 am ET on Dec. 2, 2015 and closes at 11:59 pm ET on Dec. 6, 2015. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Teen takes on bullies

Lynelle Cantwell had just sat down in Grade 12 math class at Holy Trinity Regional High School in the Newfoundland and Labrador town of Torbay on Tuesday morning when cruelty rocked her world.

She learned from two friends she had been named in a poll posted on the website ask.fm called Ugliest Girls in Grade 12.

"It hurt. A lot," Lynelle said. Soon afterwards, she took to social network Facebook and wrote a response to whoever had come up with the poll.

"I'm sorry for you. Not myself I'm funny, nice, kind, down to earth, not judgmental, accepting, helpful and I'm super easy to talk to. That's the same for every other girl on that list."

The reaction, she told the Star, was overwhelming.

"I didn't think it was going to go viral!"

It's unlikely anyone could do a more wonderful job than Lynelle has herself in revealing the pain caused by bullying and the benefits of thoughtfully asserting herself.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Lynelle Cantwell

PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS



LEFT: Syrian refugee Awad Alhajali from Kherbet Ghazalah, Syria, and his wife Asmaa sit with their children, Obaida, 5, Adnan, 9, Abedr, 2, and Obada, 7, left to right, in their apartment in Irbid, Jordan. The family is waiting for approval to immigrate to Canada. RIGHT: Headwaters Refugee Group chair Brian Logel with his wife Philomela at the Westminster United Church, in Orangeville, Ont.

LEFT: CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS; RIGHT: PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canadian sponsors give refugees hope for world

IMMIGRATION

Paperwork and waiting precede trip out of Jordan

The Alhajalis are animated, talking over one another as they compare the prosperous and peaceful pre-revolution life they enjoyed in Syria to the daily struggles they now face as 10 of the 630,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Even though they're heading soon to the safety of Canada, the fear of Syria still hovers.

"All we want," says Razan, 28, wife of Emad, also 28, "is some peace and some security."

In a matter of days, they hope to be on their way there — Razan and Emad's family is among the 10,000 privately sponsored Syrian refugees likely to be in Canada by year's end as part of the Liberal government's commitment to resettle 25,000 of them by the end of February.

Awad Alhajali, 34, and his wife Asmaa, 34, are eventually bound for Canada as well, having found their own private sponsors in the same community — Orangeville, Ont.

About 14 months ago, a Can-



The general situation here is nobody likes to help.

Refugee Emad Alhajali

adian friend of a friend of Razan and Emad pointed out the private sponsorship system and offered to help with the paperwork.

A connection was made eventually with a group from Westminster United Church in Orangeville, Ont., hoping to sponsor a family. The paper-

work was filled out, and then the waiting began.

A month ago, they were called for their health exams, and earlier this week handed over their passports for what they believe are exit visas.

Now they await the phone call telling them when their flight will depart for Canada.

They've heard Canadians are warm and welcoming, and don't fear moving to a different culture.

"It's a surprise when people across the world want to help you," Emad says.

"It means the world is going to be OK," adds Razan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ ON THEIR WAY

Syrian family to head to Orangeville Dec. 14

Brian and Philomena Logel are making arrangements to welcome the Alhajalis into their own home, if only until a more permanent home is found for their Syrian charges. Word came down Sunday that the Alhajalis had received their exit visas and now they're heading to Orangeville, Ont., on Dec. 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ASSISTED SUICIDE

Minister requests extended deadline

The Supreme Court of Canada must decide if it will grant a six-month extension to the federal government to respond to its landmark ruling on doctor-assisted death.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said Thursday Parliament should be given more time to consider all possible responses to the decision.

She also requested any opposing party be required to respond within three days, instead of the traditional 10-day window.

"Physician-assisted dying is a complex and deeply personal issue for Canadians of all ages and backgrounds," Wilson-Raybould said in a statement.

"The federal government's

response will affect all of society. That is why we are firmly committed to including Canadians and taking the time to develop a thoughtful, sensitive and well-informed response."

The federal government's request for a delay has been backed by Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan, according to documents filed to the top court.

Last February, the court recognized the right of clearly consenting adults who are enduring intolerable physical or mental suffering to end their lives with a physician's help. It also gave Parliament a year to respond to the ruling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPENDING

Infrastructure vow faces delivery problems: report

Federal officials warned last month that its plan to steer billions in unspent infrastructure money directly to cities could run into roadblocks with the very cities and provinces they want to help.

The Liberals want to put any unspent infrastructure money into the gas tax fund, which gives money directly to cities to pay for roads, highways, bridges, public transit, water and sewer systems.

Briefing material says some of the money the Liberals want to move has either already been promised to provinces to use how and when they want, or earmarked for specific projects. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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APPOINTMENTS

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Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

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The government announced

+ MOVING ON

Demers calls it a day on Conservative caucus

Sen. Jacques Demers has said he is quitting the Conservative caucus, because he was uncomfortable with

some of the machinations involved in the Senate expenses scandal and chafed at having to vote the Conservative party line all the time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thursday it is establishing a five-member advisory board to recommend Senate appoint-

tees "guided by public, merit-based criteria," a system the Liberals say will make the

Senate less partisan and more effective.

The board will submit a shortlist of five names for each vacancy to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who makes the final decision.

The constitutional requirements for the job remain. You have to be at least 30 years old, be a Canadian citizen and own property worth at least \$4,000, as well as at least \$4,000 in other assets.



New Speaker of the House of Commons Geoff Regan, right, delivers his acceptance speech on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regan gets Speaker job

POLITICS

MPs elect veteran to role in House of Commons

MPs have elected Liberal Geoff Regan as Speaker of the House of Commons.

Regan, 56, who represents the riding of Halifax West, was first elected in 1993, defeated in 1997 and then re-elected in 2000, and has served as MP ever since.

Regan is the son of former Nova Scotia premier and federal cabinet minister Gerald Regan.

Ottawa-area MP Mauril Belanger was expected to also be a candidate, but revealed on Monday he has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease — and withdrew from the race.

Conservative MP Andrew Scheer, who held the post since 2011, opted not to run again, choosing instead to serve as Opposition House leader.

Once in the seat, Regan echoed the hopeful sentiment that has been on the lips of so many MPs of all stripes over the years: that the Commons should commit to a new, more collegial culture.



We need to raise the tone in this chamber.

Speaker of the House
Geoff Regan

"You have given me a very important responsibility and I will need your support," Regan said, having beat out Liberal colleagues Yasmin Ratansi and Denis Paradis and Conservative Bruce Stanton for the job. "I think we need to raise the tone in this chamber and reconstitute goodwill. We have to have respect for one another, despite our differences."

Regan's election precedes the first throne speech by the new Liberal government, to be delivered Friday by Gov. Gen. David Johnston.

Insiders say the speech will be little more than a list of the government's immediate priorities, with minimal rhetorical flourishes and no surprises.

It's expected to be a brief recitation of the urgent promises Prime Minister Justin Trudeau intends to move on over the coming year — those aimed at improving the lot of struggling middle-class Canadians foremost among them.

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THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Outrage building over empty gestures

A political tempest over grief, gun control and prayer plays out after latest mass shooting

It's a natural reaction in times of grief: Politicians from both parties offered supportive thoughts and prayers for those killed in the San Bernardino shootings. But within hours, social media was awash with pushback from gun control advocates calling out those who offer prayers without pushing for tighter gun laws.

"Your 'thoughts' should be about steps to take to stop this carnage," Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut tweeted. "Your 'prayers' should be for forgiveness if you do nothing - again."

Murphy, who has been outspoken in pressing for gun control legislation, added at a news conference Thursday: "Members of Congress don't get elected to send out sympathy tweets."

As GOP presidential candidates and conservative lawmakers tweeted, one by one, their prayers after the shooting, Igor Volsky, a contributing editor at the liberal website ThinkProgress, started tweeting back

how much each had received in campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association, which opposes tighter gun laws.

The hashtag #thoughtsandprayers quickly was adopted by those venting frustration with the prayerful sentiments offered by those opposed to congressional action on gun legislation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Juan Carlos Mendez gathers pastors for a prayer vigil. DAILY PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERRORISM

Paris fugitive hid in migrant wave: Police

Salah Abdeslam, a fugitive suspected in the deadly attacks in Paris, was at the main Budapest train station before mid-September and left with men who had been travelling amid a wave of asylum-seekers trying to enter Europe, Hungarian officials said Thursday.

In Belgium, meanwhile, two more suspects in the Paris attacks were taken into custody facing terrorism charges. In all, Belgium now has eight suspects behind bars who are linked to the Paris attacks or to a possible

attack in Brussels.

Janos Lazar, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff, said at a news conference Thursday that the Hungarian secret services had confirmed information about Abdeslam's travels they had received from foreign agencies. According to Lazar, the Paris fugitive was at the Keleti Railway terminal in Budapest, where he recruited young men who were refusing to register with Hungarian authorities,

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



FBI agents search outside a home in connection to the shootings in San Bernardino on Thursday in Redlands, Calif. A heavily armed man and woman opened fire Wednesday on a holiday banquet for his co-workers, killing multiple people and seriously wounding others in a precision assault, authorities said. RINGO H.W. CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California gunman met radicals online

MASS SHOOTING

Motives of San Bernardino attackers are still unclear

San Bernardino gunman Syed Rizwan Farook had been in contact with known extremists on social media, a U.S. intelligence official said Thursday, and police said he and his wife had enough bullets and bombs to slaughter hundreds when they launched their deadly attack on a holiday party.

The details came to light as in-

vestigators tried to determine whether the rampage that left 14 people dead was terrorism, a workplace grudge or some combination.

The husband-and-wife killers were not on the FBI's radar before the massacre, said a second U.S. official, who likewise spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Wearing black tactical gear



Syed Rizwan Farook, the suspect, is shown here.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and wielding assault rifles, Farook, a 28-year-old county restaurant inspector, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 27, sprayed as many as 75 rounds into a room at a social service centre for the disabled, where Farook's co-workers had gathered for a holiday banquet Wednesday.

Farook had attended the event but slipped out at some point, then returned in battle dress.

A U.S. official says the FBI was treating the mass shooting in California as a potential act of terror but had reached no conclusion it was.

A law enforcement official says authorities are looking for a man who bought two rifles used in a Southern California attack that killed 14 people.

Authorities have said two pistols and two rifles they carried were bought legally more than three years ago.

Farook bought the pistols, but authorities won't identify who bought the rifles.

The official says the guns were all purchased in California.

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Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci, left, and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who was in Cyprus for a one-day official visit Thursday. JONATHAN ERNST/POOL PHOTO VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kerry asks for ceasefire

SYRIAN CONFLICT

Secretary of State says ISIL can be defeated in months

The Islamic State can be defeated within "months" of a ceasefire between Syria's government and moderate rebels, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday, urging the world to come together behind a peace strategy recently hashed out by the United States, Russia and other countries.

Kerry said air power alone won't be enough. The campaign will require ground forces, too, he said at a European security conference. He later specified that meant there'd be local Syrian and Arab boots on the ground, not Western troops.

Kerry has been spearheading international efforts to broker an end to fighting between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and non-terrorist opposition forces, and a political transition process involving elements of each side.

Diplomats hope to start direct discussions between Syria's government and the opposition in the next few weeks. December talks in New York are a possibility. First, a meeting of Syrian opposition

representatives is planned in Saudi Arabia next week.

Kerry said a political transition would be a boon for everyone, allowing the Islamic State (ISIL) to be "eliminated within a matter of months."

Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed that the Syrian opposition meeting should be "as inclusive as possible," a State Department official said after the two diplomats met on the sidelines of the Organization for Security and Cooperation event in Belgrade, Serbia.

They both said more work was required to determine which rebel groups could be represented in a political transition and which should be considered excluded as terrorist organizations, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the conversation publicly and demanded anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ DIPLOMACY

Peace between Assad and moderates is key: Kerry

Iran and Saudi Arabia have endorsed the ceasefire process. Iran, along with Russia, is Syrian President Bashar Assad's biggest backer.

Saudi Arabia and other Sunni monarchies in the Persian Gulf have provided much of the assistance to the rebels.

GENDER EQUALITY

U.S. military will open all jobs to women

The U.S. armed forces are about to open all combat jobs to women for the first time.

After three years of study and debate, Defence Secretary Ash Carter ordered the military Thursday to open all military jobs to women, removing the final barriers that kept women from serving in combat — including the most dangerous and gruelling commando posts.

His landmark decision rebuffed requests by the Marine

Corps to exclude women from

certain infantry and combat jobs and signalled a formal recognition that thousands of women served, and many were wounded or killed, in the last 14 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We are a joint force, and I have decided to make a decision which applies to the entire force," Carter told a news conference.

But he acknowledged some concerns. "Implementation won't happen overnight. And while at the end of the day this will make

us a better and stronger force, there still will be problems to fix and challenges to overcome. We shouldn't diminish that."

Carter said the U.S. military can no longer afford to exclude half the population from high-risk military posts. He said that any man or woman who meets the standards should be able to serve, and he gave the armed services 30 days to submit plans to make the historic change.

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220K

Carter's order opens the final 10 per cent of military positions to women — a total of about 220,000 jobs.



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#BuyPens refugee now employs 16

CROWDFUNDING

Man has come a long way since photo went viral

Abdul Halim al-Attar, a Palestinian refugee from Syria who was photographed selling pens in the streets of Beirut, is now running three businesses in the city after an online crowdfunding campaign in his name collected \$191,000.

The 33-year-old father of two opened a bakery two months ago and has since added a kebab shop and a small restaurant to his business venture. He employs 16 Syrian refugees.

The photograph of al-Attar carrying his sleeping daughter on his shoulder while trying to sell pens to passing motorists in the scorching heat went viral this past summer and touched people across the world.

One of those moved by his plight was an online journalist and web developer in Norway, Gissur Simonarson, who created a Twitter account under the name #BuyPens and an Indiegogo campaign to raise \$5,000 for al-Attar and his family. When it closed three months later, the campaign had collected almost forty times more: \$188,685. Another \$2,324 in donations has trickled in since then.

"Not only did my life change, but also the lives of my children and the lives of people in Syria

\$188,685

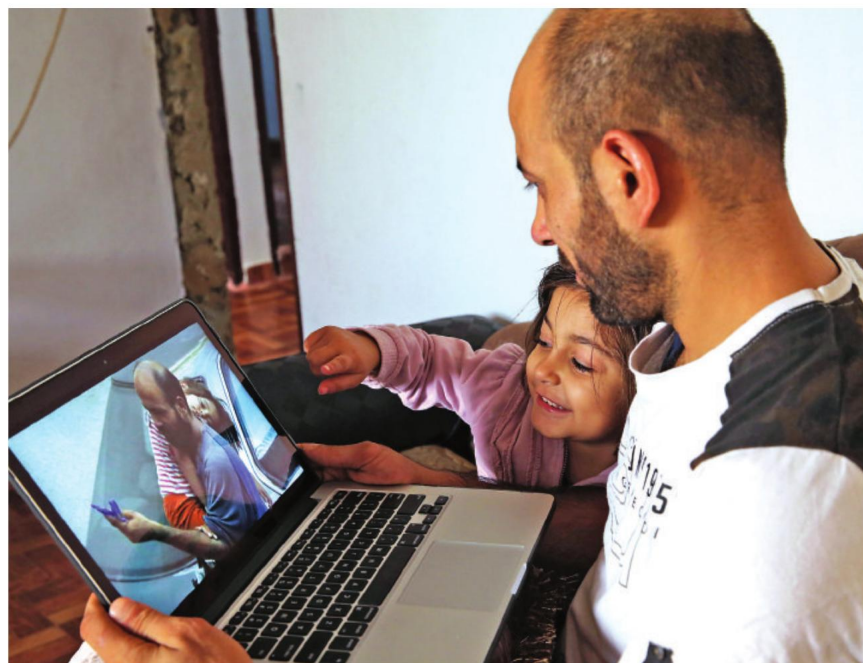
The amount of money collected over three months via Indiegogo.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

whom I helped," he said. Al-Attar said he gave away about \$25,000 to friends and relatives in Syria.

Al-Attar also quickly built a better life for himself and his family in Beirut. His wife returned to Syria and they are currently separated.

He sported a T-shirt reading "Stay positive," and a large smile. "When God wants to grant you something, you'll get it," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Abdul Halim al-Attar and his daughter Reem, 4 look at the photo that inspired a crowdfunding campaign. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GUANTANAMO BAY

Case of mistaken identity released after 13 years of detention



The U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay in 2012.

JIM WATSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A Yemeni prisoner detained for over 13 years at the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was reportedly held there partly as a result of mistaken identity.

U.S. officials determined that Mustafa al-Aziz al-Shamiri was a low-level fighter and not an al-Qaida courier and trainer as previously thought. Officials mistakenly believed al-Shamiri's role was more significant because his name was confused with others having a name like his.

"We now judge that these activities were carried out by other known extremists with names or aliases similar to (al-

Shamiri's)," an unclassified U.S. Department of Defense detainee profile written on Sept. 25 shows.

The DoD report states that "fragmentary reporting" links al-Shamiri, 37, to fighting in Bosnia in 1995, when he would have been 16 or 17 years-old.

The report also states that he told interrogators that he fought in Yemen's civil war in 1996 and for the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2000-2001.

"He may have been collocated at a safehouse in Yemen with operatives who plotted the USS Cole bombing, although there are no other

indications that he played a role in that operation," the report reads.

Amnesty International has called on the U.S. to close Guantanamo immediately.

"Detainees at Guantanamo remain in limbo with their lives on hold for years on end. Many have suffered serious human rights violations, including enforced disappearance and torture, but access to remedy has systematically been blocked and accountability minimal," said Erika Guevara Rosas, director of Amnesty's Americas program, in a statement last year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Detainees at Guantanamo remain in limbo with their lives on hold for years on end. Many have suffered serious human rights violations.

Erika Guevara Rosas

Black babies' lives matter, too

UNITED STATES

Experts believe racism a cause of high infant mortality

There are a whole lot of baby funerals in Milwaukee. At most of them, it is a black mom crying over the casket.

Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in America. Its white infants die at around the same rate as infants in Canada. Its black infants die at around the same rate as infants in the Gaza Strip.

"Babies just dying every day," said Mary Love, 25 and expecting her third child, at the popular Blanket of Love prenatal class held weekly at a black church.

The city's politicians and experts believe they know what is happening. The challenge is fixing it. Four years into an ambitious official campaign to both lower the overall death rate and close the black/white gap, the overall rate has dropped slightly. The 10-point gap hasn't budged.

"This problem is so all-encompassing it's mind-boggling," said Elizabeth Hill-Karbowskit, director of women and infants outpatient services at the Wheaton Franciscan health system.

About 15 per cent of the city's black infant deaths are the result of unsafe sleep conditions — fixable stuff. But two thirds of the deaths are the result of premature birth. Prematurity is linked to obesity, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and a lack of prenatal health care, all of which are



Tiara Hardy, 22, credits Blanket of Love classes with helping her bond with her kids. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

linked to social conditions. The city's black poverty rate, black unemployment rate and black incarceration rate are among the highest in the country.

Mayor Tom Barrett has declared infant mortality a top priority. Since 2011, his government, the United Way, hospitals and charities have spent millions to combat the problem.

Three city programs provide home visits to expectant

mothers before and after birth. A fourth targets fathers. St. Joseph, the renowned Wheaton Franciscan hospital offers pregnant women financial counselors who help them get insurance and social workers who help them address abuse and homelessness.

Across the U.S., the black infant mortality rate is nearly double the white rate. The gap can't be explained in full by poverty or risky decisions: even high-income, college-educated black women are more likely to give birth prematurely than the average white woman. Some researchers, and many of Milwaukee's experts, believe racism is part of the explanation.

Early labour can be triggered by high levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Studies show these levels are higher in people who have faced discrimination, no matter what their social status.

In Milwaukee, a community with deep and long-running racial divisions, Hill-Karbowskit said chronic stress is the "over-arching" factor in the mortality crisis.

"You're looking at generations upon generations of people who have been unfairly treated and discriminated against," she said. "We're talking about generations of people living with increased levels of stress hormones in their body." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Social worker Sara Nelson teaches mothers how to put their babies to sleep safely. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harsh numbers tell story

15:5

ratio of black babies' deaths to white babies' death per 1,000 births in Milwaukee.

2/3

proportion of black babies' deaths in the city resulting from premature births

2:1

ratio of black babies deaths to white babies' deaths across the U.S.

“We’re talking about generations of people living with increased levels of stress hormones in their body.”

Elizabeth Hill-Karbowskit

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A baby tries to touch the shield of a Greek policeman as refugees wait to cross the Greek-Macedonian border Thursday. **GIANNIS PAPANIKOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Rejected migrants demand to get in

GREEK-MACEDONIAN BORDER

Violence flares as refugees jump to front of queue

Greek riot police struggled to maintain order Thursday after chaotic clashes between asylum-seekers at the country's border with Macedonia, where thousands seeking a new life in the European Union have seen their long trek north brought to an abrupt halt by closed borders and new rules.

At least two people were injured Thursday at the border as hundreds of people rejected by Macedonia — so-called economic migrants — clashed with the Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis that Macedonia is allowing in.

Late Thursday, a group of mainly Iranian migrants with small children agreed to stop manning barricades that prevented refugees from entering Macedonia, and about 300

people crossed the border from the Greek village of Idomeni. Tired of waiting, thousands of refugees then broke through a Greek police cordon, surging to the Macedonian border, which immediately closed again.

Earlier, police distributed flyers warning the economic migrants that they must leave the border area within three days, and the government implied it would take more drastic action if necessary.

The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, voiced "deep concern" about the tensions, urging Greece and Macedonia to manage the border "in a manner

consistent with human rights and refugee-protection principles."

The clashes came as Greece faces mounting pressure from its EU partners to ensure better control of its borders and register arriving migrants, or face the prospect that passport checks could be reintroduced for Greek citizens in Europe.

More than 600,000 migrants have flooded into Greece this year, many fleeing conflict in Syria or Iraq. Nearly all have entered the country from nearby Turkey, paying large fees to smuggling gangs who arrange their crossings in small, overcrowded boats. Hundreds of people have drowned this year in the Aegean Sea.

Police say about 6,000 people are stuck at Idomeni, sleeping in a shelter provided by charities, in hundreds of tents or in the fields. About 3,500 are Iranians, Pakistanis and other nationalities not allowed in by Macedonians, while the rest are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6,000

The number of people stuck at the Greek-Macedonian border. Roughly 3,500 are nationalities not admitted into Macedonia.
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IN BRIEF

NASA mission looks for gravitational waves

The European Space Agency launched a rocket Thursday to carry two cubes of gold and platinum almost a million miles from Earth so scientists can see how they'll behave in a freefall — at a cost of more than \$450 million.

The enterprise is a prelude to a far more ambitious mission that hopes to measure ripples in space-time caused by black holes and other massive objects lurking unseen in dark corners of the galaxy, also known as gravitational waves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unlicensed doctor gets 25 years for HIV outbreak

A Cambodian court sentenced unlicensed medical practitioner Yem Chrin, 56, to 25 years in prison Thursday after finding him responsible for infecting more than 100 villagers with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by reusing unsanitized syringes. At least 10 of the infected people have died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Floods displace thousands

CHENNAI, INDIA

Record El Niño leads to worst rainfall in 100 years

The heaviest rainfall in more than 100 years has devastated swathes of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, forcing thousands to leave their submerged homes as schools, offices and an airport remained shut for a second day Thursday.

Chennai, the state capital, received more than 330 millimetres of rain over 24 hours, significantly higher than the average for the entire month of December, Home Minister

330mm

The level of rainfall received in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state in the south of India, over 24 hours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



People use a water tank for flotation as they wade through flood waters in Chennai, India Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rajnath Singh said.

"I can't even believe that this much water is possible in Chennai," a woman told NDTV television as she stood in waist-deep water.

"We don't have any food. We don't have any milk," she said,

adding that she was searching for a shop selling food, "but I'm scared to walk down this road."

Low-lying neighbourhoods and the city's airport were almost completely submerged. The Airport Authority of India said the airport is likely to remain closed

until Sunday.

The main train station was so heavily flooded Thursday that it had to halt operations.

Hundreds of army, navy, police and fire department rescuers helped evacuate people trapped in their homes. Twitter and other

66

I can't even believe that this much water is possible in Chennai.

Unnamed woman

social media were flooded with calls for help from across the city.

News reports said flood waters released from a lake on the outskirts of Chennai inundated more neighbourhoods in the city. The Adyar river, which runs through Chennai before draining into the Bay of Bengal, was flowing above the danger mark.

At least 269 people have been killed in the state since heavy rains began in early November, Singh said, although no deaths have been reported in the latest deluge.

The downpour eased early Thursday, but the Indian Meteorological Department predicted more heavy rain in several parts of the state through the rest of the week. The rains are caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, it said.

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HOUSING

More foreigners buying up condos

The number of Canadian condominiums owned by foreign residents grew over the past year in Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg, says the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

CMHC released a survey Thursday that sheds some light on what has been a politically charged issue, particularly in British Columbia.

It says foreign buyers owned 3.5 per cent of condos in Vancouver in 2015, up from 2.3 per cent last year. That's the high-

est rate of all 16 metropolitan areas tracked. Concerns have arisen that wealthy foreign buyers are driving up the cost of homes, making them unaffordable for local residents. Critics have suggested the market could crash if those buyers decided to cash out and sell.

CMHC CEO Evan Siddall said there's not enough data to predict what, if any, impact foreign investors are having on housing prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Jason Fisher, owner of Indie Ale House in Toronto, says big companies merging has a chilling effect on smaller companies such as his brewhouse. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mega mergers worry small craft brewers

BRANDING

Giants killing innovation, some beer makers say

The proposed consolidation of the world's biggest beer companies has given rise to concerns that it could be harder for Canada's small brewers to sell their brands in local bars.

"Traditionally, big companies merging to become even bigger companies tends to have a little bit of a chilling effect on innovation and small compan-

ies," said Jason Fisher, owner of the Indie Ale House, a Toronto brewhouse. "You want to go to a sporting event, they own that venue. You want to go to a concert, they own that venue. You want to buy beer at a store, they own those too."

Large brewers use their financial firepower for marketing and sponsorships to increase awareness of their brands and buy up more beer tap lines to dominate distribution in bars and restaurants.

SABMiller recently agreed to a \$107-billion US takeover by Anheuser-Busch InBev in a merger of the world's two largest brewers. Molson Coors

"You want to go to a sporting event, they own that venue ... You want to buy beer at a store, they own those too."

Jason Fisher

is poised to nearly double its size after agreeing to spend \$12 billion US for SABMiller's share of Miller Coors and Miller's International brands, in-

cluding those sold in Canada.

Ibis said the craft brewing phenomenon that has taken the U.S. beer market by storm has not been as significant in Canada, largely because it is more difficult to enter the market with provincial regulations about distribution. However, the popularity of craft beer has been rising across Canada for years. While overall beer consumption declined by six per cent in 2014, craft beer servings grew by seven per cent, according to data research company NPD Group.

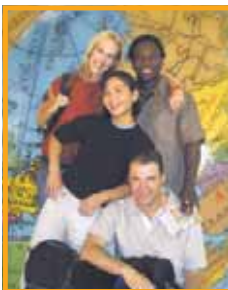
Beer giants have responded by buying up craft beer companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Akifumi Tamaoki, general manager of Toyota's robot division, interacts with the auto maker's "partner robot" HSR at the International Robot exhibition in Tokyo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota bets on robots

TECHNOLOGY

Automaker unveils HSR — its vision for the future

Toyota Motor Corp. is harbouring big ambitions to become a significant player in the growing market for robots that help the elderly get around in everyday life.

The company believes it can use its manufacturing expertise to become as crucial in a field it calls "partner robots" as it is to auto-making.

Toyota last month announced a \$1 billion US invest-

ment in a research company headed by robotics expert Gill Pratt in Silicon Valley to develop artificial intelligence and robotics. It is already working with Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on robotics.

"We are preparing for a future in which people may not be able to drive cars, or they may need artificial intelligence to support them to drive, and once they get

off their cars they may need help from partner robots," said Akifumi Tamaoki, general manager of Toyota's partner robot division.

The Japanese government is banking on robotics as a growth industry in a society that's aging at a faster pace than industrialized nations.

Toyota demonstrated a one-armed partner robot on-wheels loaded with sensors and cameras. The R2-D2 looka-

like known as HSR, or Human Support Robot, can pick up after people, bring an item to the bedside or open curtains.

Among the developments in the works for HSR is another arm, which will allow it to perform more complex tasks, and adding conversational skills. It now comes with a flat panel that works like a videophone or video player, but can't talk.

One research group has proposed using it for taking care of pets, such as jiggling a toy for a lonely cat, according to Toyota.

Tamaoki believes robots like HSR will gradually become widespread, although that may take another decade.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



We are preparing for a future in which people ... once they get off their cars they may need help from partner robots.

Akifumi Tamaoki

Google doubles green power

Google is nearly doubling the amount of renewable energy feeding its massive data centres that enable more than 1 billion people to search for information, watch video clips and communicate.

The long-term commitments cover up to 842 megawatts of

power that will flow from six wind and solar power projects scheduled to be finished within the next two years in the U.S., Chile and Sweden.

Google has now signed contracts covering 2 gigawatts of renewable energy — enough to power two million homes

annually. The company has pledged to have all of its 14 data centres worldwide running on renewable energy as part of its quest to minimize the pollution caused by the rising demand for its Internet search engine and other services. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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FACE OFF

Is the TPP good for Canadian music?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), is a mammoth 6,000-page trade agreement among 12 nations, including Canada, the United States, Australia and Japan. It covers everything you could conceivably trade — from donkeys to dairy to Disney's Mickey Mouse. As the new Parliament prepares to assemble for the first time, reviewing this thing and debating whether to ratify it will be a top priority.



ISTOCK

Especially controversial are the provisions that deal with Canadian culture (music, movies, books and more). Under the TPP, copyrighted works will enter the public domain — where they can be freely modified, published and shared — 70 years after the creator's death, rather than the current 50 years. So with the agreement, copyright holders, whether the artists themselves, their heirs or the companies that own the rights to their work, will be able to profit for 20 extra years.

Will this safeguard the rights of music-makers, who are struggling to stay afloat in the digital world? Or will it stifle Canadian creativity? Three experts weigh in.



DEADMAU5
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No: It will hurt Canadian heritage



Michael Geist
University of Ottawa
Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law

It's largely the music companies, and artists' heirs, that benefit from an extension of copyright protection. To the average Canadian creator, it doesn't mean very much. Economists say a longer copyright term has little to no effect on new creativity. Nobody woke up and said, "I'm not going to write the next great Canadian novel, because my heirs will get 50 years of profits rather than 70." A term of the life of the author plus 70 years means many works that are around today won't be public domain until the next century. For the vast majority of works, the commercial value runs its course in far less time. We're restricting Canadians' access to their own heritage. But if older works are made publicly available and free, we can leverage the public domain for education and to promote Canadian heritage. I'd like to see a registration system, where you have to renew copyright every 20 to 25 years. It would separate the high-value commercial items from the vast majority. Imagine if we were still paying the heirs of Shakespeare, and charging for the rights to adapt it, to put on the plays. There wouldn't be that incentive to create.

Yes: it will help the music industry survive



Robert Hutton
Executive Director
Canadian Music Publishers Association

Very often, Canadian artists punch above their weight internationally. And we were considered a weak copyright jurisdiction. We have to realize that intellectual property is intangible. It's not a physical product like a compact disc anymore; it flows freely across borders. It has to be globally managed. So uniformity of international copyright standards is a good thing in itself. The companies that own artistic works have invested in the artists over a period of time. The Canadian public benefits because companies use that money to invest in developing new talent. Composers and families continue to reap the benefits of copyrighted works. When we extend protection, we help preserve a declining revenue stream. If you really value Canadian music and want it to be made in the future, we need to find a way for artists to get sustainable income. What happened with the TPP, from our perspective, is fair.

Sort of: A balance is needed



Erik Ashdown, CEO
Indiloop, a Canadian tech start-up that allows users to create and share their own music and sound mixes

I have to look at both sides of the copyright debate. We're not here to steal or disrespect copyrighted music, but you don't want to stop people from being creative. Record labels should see remixing as a marketing opportunity. If people are remixing your music, it shows that people care and you have an audience. When (Canadian house-music star) Deadmau5 was remixed by the (much more famous DJ) Skrillex, it probably brought a lot more attention to Deadmau5's work than it otherwise would have gotten. Some people think record labels are evil. They're not. They're in it because they love music. Their industry has been cut in half. They want to hold on to a few million dollars per year by holding on to copyright. People are still willing to pay for Beatles albums, and to pay to cover Beatles songs. On the other hand, I see why people say "Don't they have enough money?" I think Paul McCartney's great-grandkids will be okay.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Tackling violence against women: Where do we start?

I should be writing this column about violence against women, now.

It's just, violence against women — can you think of anything more broad? More pervasive? More global?

It's like saying, "Here's my opinion on poverty: It sucks."

Where do you start, and where do you end? Rape as weapon of war, and, for ISIL, of indoctrination. Domestic abuse. Statistics, courtesy of the international development agency Plan Canada, that say 120 million girls have experienced forced intercourse or sexual touching, and females make up 70 per cent of human trafficking victims. Or: One-quarter of Canadian girls will experience sexual violence.

Sunday marks another National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was Nov. 25th. Those who work year-round in this area worry about the tokenism of a day, while fighting for airtime to galvanize us to action.

Activists will seek to incite your indignation, though it's hard to get worked up over everyday injustices. Just ask a panhandler.

One place to start is with the good news, such as the federal Liberals' promise for a "comprehensive" gender-violence strategy and inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

"I think there's some new momentum that I'm quite optimistic about," Amanda Sussman, Plan Canada's head of policy and advocacy, told me. She pointed to the United Nations' new sustainable development goals for 2030, which are "drawing political attention and resources to the most vulnerable... adolescents girls, women and girls."

Another place to start is with the wider issues of violence, and how we need to end violence in men's lives, too. Undoing the pressure of gender norms on all people is among Plan's priorities, Sussman told me, painting the image of a man in a developing nation, living in extreme poverty, who must be the breadwinner for his family, but cannot.

"I think we have made mistake in the women's movement for some time not giving enough emphasis to that," she added.

Sussman, when we spoke, was sitting in the relative comfort of her Canadian life, fearing for the vulnerability of women and girl refugees, ripped away from their lives and protection.

"How do we spark the outrage?" she asked, and then suggested one last place to start: With ourselves. A day of action is a call to be "more vigilant than ever" in fighting the violence we witness. Individual actions count, she said. Maybe, start small.

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In *Legend*, Tom Hardy plays identical twins and notorious gangsters Ronnie and Reginald Kray. HANDOUT

Tom Hardy is not your average guy

RETROSPECTIVE

Actor's small edgy roles deserve a double take

Richard Crouse

For Metro Canada



Like Wrigley's "Double your pleasure! Double your fun!" gum, this weekend's movie *Legend* is two Tom Hardys in one. He plays the dual roles of Britain's most notorious gangsters, Ronnie and Reginald Kray, identical twins and violent thugs who ruled London's underworld during the 1950s and 1960s.

Previously real-life siblings Martin and Gary Kemp of '80s

new wave band Spandau Ballet impersonated the brothers in the 1990 film *The Krays*, but these days special effects allow Hardy to play both brothers. "The movie's a testament to the Krays' ability to get away with everything, for a while, anyway," wrote Ty Burr in the *Boston Globe*. "But it's better evidence of Tom Hardy's ability to do just about anything."

Already this year we've seen the talented actor in the *Mad Max* reboot *Fury Road*, the musical *London Road* and the crime thriller *Child 44*. Soon he'll play opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Revenant* and is currently shooting *Taboo*, a new BBC mini series scheduled to air next year.

He's also made waves as *The Dark Knight Rises*' brooding hulk Bane and dream-dancer Eames in the megahit *Inception*.



MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Legend ★★★
Youth ★★★★★
A Royal Night Out ★★★
I Smile Back ★★★
Life ★★
Hitchcock/Truffaut ★★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
 ★★★★★ SEE IT
 ★★★ WORTHWHILE
 ★★ UP TO YOU
 ★ SKIP IT

In between these box office busters he's appeared in smaller, edgier films that deserve a look. Here are some of the other films that have helped Tom Hardy become legend.

Hillbilly Hardy:

Lawless takes place during Prohibition. The bootlegging business is booming, run by hillbillies who'll sell to anyone with a buck and a thirst. The most notorious are the Bondurant family, headed by Forrest (Hardy)

who engages in a knock down, drag out moonshine war with a corrupt lawman played by Guy Pearce. Hardy leads the cast as a soft-spoken thug with a brainy bent. "It's not the violence that sets men apart," he says, "it is the distance he is prepared to go."

When he isn't waxing philosophical he's busy earning most of the film's few laughs. It's a natural, unaffected performance that really shows what he can do without a mask strapped to his face.

Solo Hardy:

In these days of maximalist moviemaking *Locke* goes the opposite way, trimming the movie down to one claustrophobic setting and a single on-screen actor. *Locke* is the first movie in recent memory that would probably work as well as a radio drama as it does a film. Hardy is Ivan Locke, a straight arrow construction foreman determined to be at the birth of his child. In his car, he's battling traffic for the hour-and-a-half drive to London and the mother-to-be's hospital. Trouble is, the child is the result of a lonely one-night stand and he's a married man.

The entire film takes place in the front seat of Locke's car, in real time, as he drives the M1. We see through the windshield, into the backseat and the display screen of car phone and GPS. Most of all we see Hardy's face,

which, even though obscured by a beard, still allows his charisma to ooze through. His face is the engine of the film, his talent the driver.

Hardheaded Hardy:

In *The Drop*, Hardy he plays Bob Saginowski, a mild mannered bartender at a Brooklyn neighbourhood pub owned by the Chechnyan mafia. Like many of the borough's bars, Marv's is sometimes used as a "drop," a place where gangsters secretly hide money until it is collected by their crime bosses.

As Bob, Hardy is a cypher; kind to dogs, shy and lovesick, he is an average neighbourhood guy. Except in this neighbourhood average guys have pasts, and Hardy does a nice job of playing a man who is trying to move on while the past tries to stop him in his tracks.

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BIOPIC

James Dean has inspired lead since acting school days

When Dane DeHaan was studying acting at UNC School of the Arts he had a poster of James Dean on his dorm wall.

DeHaan graduated in 2008 and has gone on to star in the HBO series *In Treatment*, and films like *Chronicle*, *The Place Beyond the Pines*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* but one thing hasn't changed.

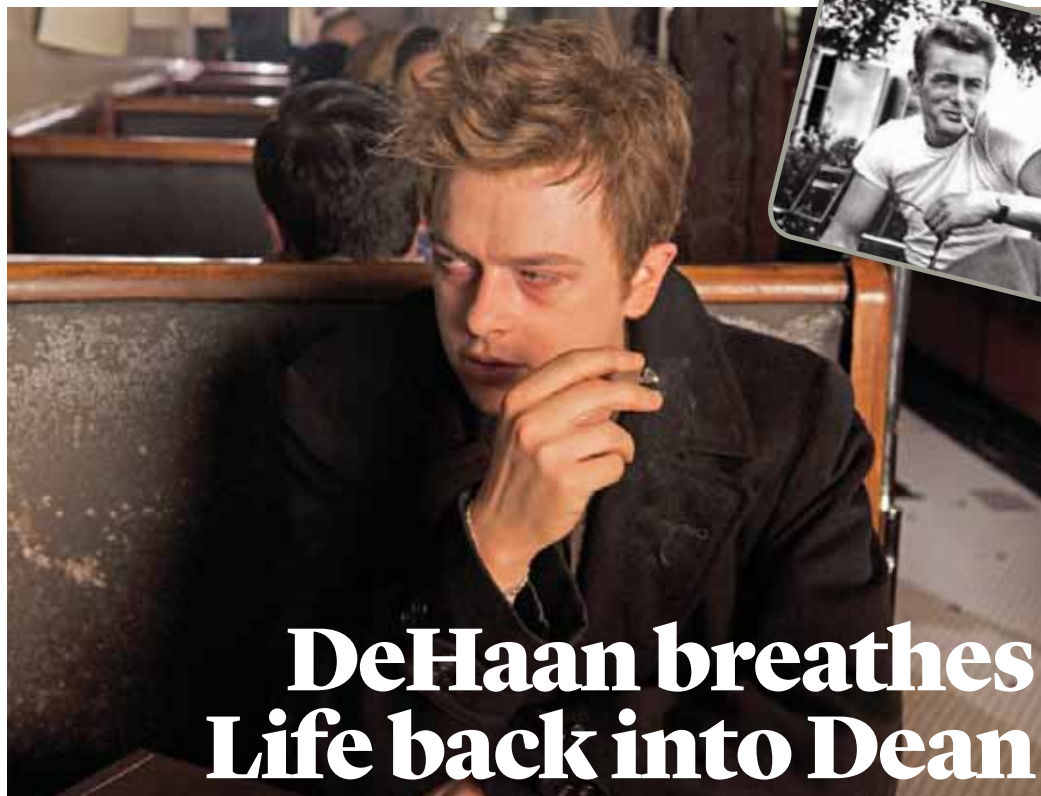
"The poster is still on my wall," he says on the line from his home. "I'm looking at it right now."

In new film *Life*, the 29-year-old actor plays Dean in 1955, just months away from the release of *East of Eden*. After a chance meeting a photographer, played by Robert Pattinson, becomes convinced the actor is the perfect subject. The two have an undeniable bond but Dean is hesitant, leery of exposing himself to the publicity machine.

DeHaan, who gained 25 pounds to play the screen icon, calls Dean one of his favourite actors.

"I was learning about acting and my acting teacher told us to go home and watch Marlon Brando and James Dean movies. I started watching them and he was just amazing. It was amazing to watch someone start the revolution of the kind of acting that most people do today but do it in such a beautiful way.

"It's so exciting to watch those movies and see James Dean existing in this world with all these other over-the-top



DeHaan breathes Life back into Dean

actors and just take them to school. The contrast was so jarring. Now you see a movie and there are obviously people who are better than others, but generally they're trying to do the same kind

of acting. In those movies that's not really happening."

DeHaan, who will soon be seen playing another real life character, Karl Rove in *Young Americans*, says "people

think they know a lot about Dean but not many people really know much about him at all," and hope *Life* will change that.

"Ultimately that was one of the rea-

DEAN ONSCREEN

Dane DeHaan joins a long list of people who have played Dean since the icon's death in 1955.

James Franco became a star, and won a Golden Globe, playing the rebellious actor in the TV biopic *James Dean*. Franco got so into character he went from non-smoker to a two-pack-a-day habit — in real life Dean smoked more than two packs of unfiltered Chesterfields a day — and learned to ride a motorcycle.

In 1976, Stephen McHattie won praise playing Dean in the TV movie *James Dean* written by William Bast, Dean's best friend and roommate.

Also interesting is the video installation piece *Rebel* which features a female James Dean in the form of performer Nina Ljeti, and an *Animaniacs* episode featuring Slappy Squirrel giving Dean a class in method acting.

sons I took it on," he says. "I realized that there are a lot of young people who don't know who James Dean is, and that's a sad fact. I would hope you would watch his movies first and then watch our movie or watch our movie and then watch his. I hope it opens a door for a lot of people to rediscover him not just as a persona but as an amazing talent." RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

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FILM BRIEFS

Thor: Ragnarok gets third scriptwriter

Writer Stephany Folsom has joined the Thor script-writing team, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Folsom (*The Princess of North Sudan*) follows Christopher Yost and Craig Kyle, who were working on the script prior. Another relatively new addition is director Taika Waititi (*What We Do in the Shadows*), who came on board in October. Actor Chris Hemsworth will be back as the eponymous Norse god, reportedly along side Mark Ruffalo as the Hulk. The third in the Thor franchise, *Thor: Ragnarok* is slated to hit theaters Nov. 3, 2017. AFP

Jason Priestly to direct Phil Hartman biopic

Jason Priestley has been tapped to direct a biopic about late comedian Phil Hartman. The movie is tentatively titled *Nice Guy Phil* and will feature actor Daran Norris as the Saturday Night Live star. Producer Tyler Levine says Norris's similarity to Hartman is "uncanny." Priestley adds that he met Hartman, a Brantford, Ont.-native, when he hosted SNL in 1995. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOX OFFICE

Could Star Wars VII overtake Avatar?



Star Wars: The Force Awakens, is projected to make more than \$2 billion at the box office. HANDOUT

Is the James Cameron movie a few weeks away from losing its number one ranking at the global box office? At any rate, it seems that the future is rosy for the new episode of the Star Wars saga.

To say that *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is the most highly anticipated movie of the year is putting it mildly. This seventh episode, slated for release on December 16, is expected to generate some big numbers, but how much exactly?

Some analysts are already predicting a final total of 2.7 billion dollars at the box office, i.e., as much as *Avatar*, which has held the global box-office record since 2010. The most optimistic analysts believe it could be the

first film to top 3 billion dollars.

Star Wars VII will be released at the same time of year as *Avatar* and *Titanic* (respectively on December 18, 2009 and December 19, 1997), the movie industry's two biggest global successes.

One thing is sure, the J.J. Abrams opus is likely to begin with a bang. Forecasts, such as that of FBR & Co's Barton Crockett, foresee \$220m for the opening weekend. A record that would topple *Jurassic World*, which generated \$208.8m when it was released last June. With record advance ticket sales (\$50m), *Star Wars* is sure to get off to a better start than *Avatar* which brought in \$77m in its opening weekend. AFP

The dark side of holiday movies

ROUNDUP

Black Christmas isn't the only film to trade tinsel for terror

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Without *Black Christmas*, a groundbreaking 1974 Canadian horror film there might never have been a Jason Voorhees, Freddy Krueger or Michael Myers. These characters owe much to one film made in Toronto, a movie *Film Threat* magazine calls "the first modern slasher movie."

The film enters its fourth decade this year, a milestone celebrated with the release of *Black Christmas*, the Season's Grievings Edition in late November. The story of a sorority house terrorized by a murderous stranger has been given the deluxe Blu-ray treatment, packed with a Santa's sleigh of new fea-

tures. It is one of the great Christmas horror movies, but it isn't the only one.

Here's a look at holiday films without an ounce of tinsel treacle.

Silent Night, Deadly Night

Originally called *Slayride*, this movie about a teen who goes on a murderous rampage dressed as Santa after his parents are killed, changed its name for release.

In its first weekend it outgrossed *Nightmare on Elm Street*, but then parents angry at Santa's portrayal as an axe murderer picketed theatres, and the box office dried up.

The film's final lump of coal was a review from *Siskel and Ebert* that consisted of reading the credits and saying "Shame" after each name.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Imagine if our collective image of Santa Claus had been shaped by *Allegory of Gluttony* and *Lust* painter Hieronymus Bosch instead of

some nameless commercial artist at Coca-Cola and you'll get an idea of the dark edge of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. The jolly fat man in the red suit is gone, hijacked by a skeleton in a pinstriped suit. The story of the mayor of Halloweentown who kidnaps and impersonates 'Sandy Claws' to bring his own brand of good will to the world is a Disney release but it is one of the rare ones that isn't meant for the entire family.

Santa Claus

K. Gordon Murray was a film producer best known for snapping up the rights to foreign films, dubbing them into English for American audiences. His best-known pick-up was *Santa Claus*, a strange Yuletide flick about St. Nick and Merlin doing battle with Lucifer.

Originally produced in Spanish and featuring a Santa Claus who doesn't live at the North Pole, but above it, in a magic castle in outer space, it isn't exactly scary, but may be the weirdest movie on this list.

Elves

When most people think of Dan Haggerty visions of the gruff but kind-hearted mountain man from the 1970s TV show *The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams* come to mind. B-movie fans, however, remember him as Mike McCavlin, a down-on-his-luck department store Santa who does battle with a bloodthirsty Nazi elf in *Elves*.

It suffers from cheesy dialogue—"I had a rough day at work... Santa got murdered"—and the fact that a movie called *Elves* features only one elf, but it's so ho-ho-ho-horrible it's fun to watch.

Silent Night, Zombie Night

Walking Dead fans might get a charge out of *Silent Night, Zombie Night*, a Christmas viral outbreak movie so realistic a concerned citizen called the police during filming, citing gang violence.

The LAPD showed up by foot, car and air only to find movie zombies battling with prop weapons. It's not exactly traditional Christmas fare, unless your name is George A. Romero.

Christmas Evil

Christmas Evil is the best of the Santa as serial killer movies and before you ask, there are quite a few of them. In this one a boy is traumatized after walking in on his parents in flagrante with dad dressed as Santa.

He develops daddy issues and a Santa fixation and one Christmas Eve brings murder home for the holidays. You better pray you're not on this Santa's list.

Jack Frost

Set in the Christmassy soundings of Snowmington, this holiday horror sees serial killer Jack Frost involved in an automobile accident on the day of his execution.

When the vehicle he's being transported in crashes into a "genetics truck" the spilled chemical waste causes



The 1974 Canadian made *Black Christmas* has been touted as the first modern slasher movie. CONTRIBUTED

his body to fuse with the snow on the ground.

Calling himself "The world's most pissed-off snow cone!" he returns as a killer

snowman with revenge on his icy little mind and an arsenal of weapons, including sharpened icicles and a giant carrot.

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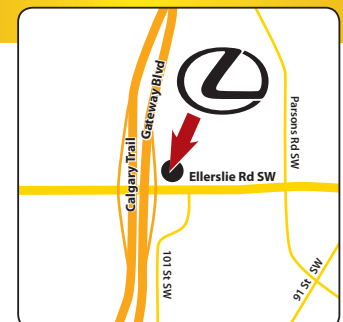
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Now playing



ANIMATION The Good Dinosaur

Director: Peter Sohn
Starring: Raymond Ochoa, Jeffrey Wright

What if the cataclysmic asteroid that forever changed life on Earth actually missed the planet completely and giant dinosaurs never became extinct?

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 81% **81%**



DRAMA Trumbo

Director: Jay Roach
Starring: Bryan Cranston, Alan Tudyk

In 1947, Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood's top screenwriter until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs. The film recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice under the blacklist.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 73% **76%**



DRAMA Creed

Director: Ryan Coogler
Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Michael B. Jordan

Adonis Johnson never knew his famous father, world heavy weight champion Apollo Creed, who died before he was born. Still, there's no denying that boxing is in his blood, so Adonis heads to Philadelphia, the site of Apollo Creed's legendary match with Rocky Balboa.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 92% **96%**



DRAMA Victor Frankenstein

Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: James McAvoy, Daniel Radcliffe

James McAvoy and Daniel Radcliffe star in a dynamic and thrilling twist on a legendary tale. Radical scientist Victor Frankenstein and his equally brilliant protégé Igor Strausman share a noble vision of aiding humanity.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 22% **54%**



ART HOUSE Legend

Director: Brian Helgeland
Starring: Tom Hardy, Emily Browning

The true story of the rise and fall of London's most notorious gangsters, Reggie and Ronnie Kray, who captivated the public and lorded over a criminal empire. This classic thriller takes us into the secret history of the 1960s and the extraordinary events that secured the infamy of the Kray Twins.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 60% **73%**



HORROR Krampus

Director: Michael Dougherty
Starring: Toni Collette, Adam Scott

When his dysfunctional family clashes over the holidays, Max is disillusioned and turns his back on Christmas. Little does he know, this lack of festive spirit has unleashed the wrath of Krampus: a demonic force of ancient evil intent on punishing non-believers.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
NOT YET REVIEWED **+93%**

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Michael Caine reflects on a life in showbiz

PROFILE

From Youth to old age, actor opens up about career

Michael Caine sits down for lunch at the St. Regis Hotel in midtown New York clutching a copy of the day's Daily News given to him by the hotel doorman, who's earmarked a photo of Caine and his Youth co-star Jane Fonda.

"You wonder why I stay here," he chuckles. "I always remember the sort of joke thing in the British paper where the journalist said to the duchess, 'What's the best restaurant in London?' And she said, 'Where you're known, dear.' And I apply that to a lot of what I do."

Caine, 82, is known just about everywhere. Some know him as the star of British classics like *Alfie*, *The Italian Job* and *Get Carter*. Others know him as Batman's butler (and a regular of just about every Christopher Nolan movie). Some might even know him just by the ubiquitous impressions of his indelible cockney accent, like Steve Coogan and



In *Youth*, Caine plays a retired classical composer and conductor alongside Paul Dano. CONTRIBUTED

Rob Brydon's dueling Michael Caines in *The Trip*.

In Paolo Sorrentino's *Youth*, Caine puts a capstone on a career that has travelled from working-class upstart to cinema institution. Like most things in life, he's enjoying it.

Working now and then, Caine lives relatively quietly, focused

on his family; he and his wife, Shakira Baksh, are moving from their updated barn outside London, so their 25-minute drive to their grandchildren can be cut down to 5. But he's also soaking up the adulation for his aged classical composer in *Youth*, which some think could land him his sixth Oscar nomination.

"I've been nominated (for best actor) four times and I have never won," he says, smiling. "I fly for 11 hours to clap another actor and then go home. It's a long way! So I'm not exactly clearing shelves. I've got two Oscars, anyway."

Sorrentino, the Italian director of the Oscar-winning *The*

Great Beauty, wanted Caine for his combination of authority and levity — a description that hits on Caine's unique blend of good cheer and gravitas. Caine first struck Sorrentino in Woody Allen's *Hannah and her Sisters*: "When I saw that, I thought: I would like to be like Michael

EARLY DAYS

On coming to Hollywood

"The first party I went to in Hollywood, Shirley MacLaine gave to welcome me to Hollywood. The first people to walk in were Gloria Swanson and Frank Sinatra. I was dumbstruck. Then she took me to dinner at Danny Kaye's house. There were only two other people there. One was Cary Grant and the other one was Prince Philip. I'm sitting there. I've been in Hollywood for three weeks. I took Shirley home. She lived in the Valley. As we got near to her home, I said, 'Look! Your house is on fire.' She said, 'Michael, that's steam from the pool.'"

QUOTE

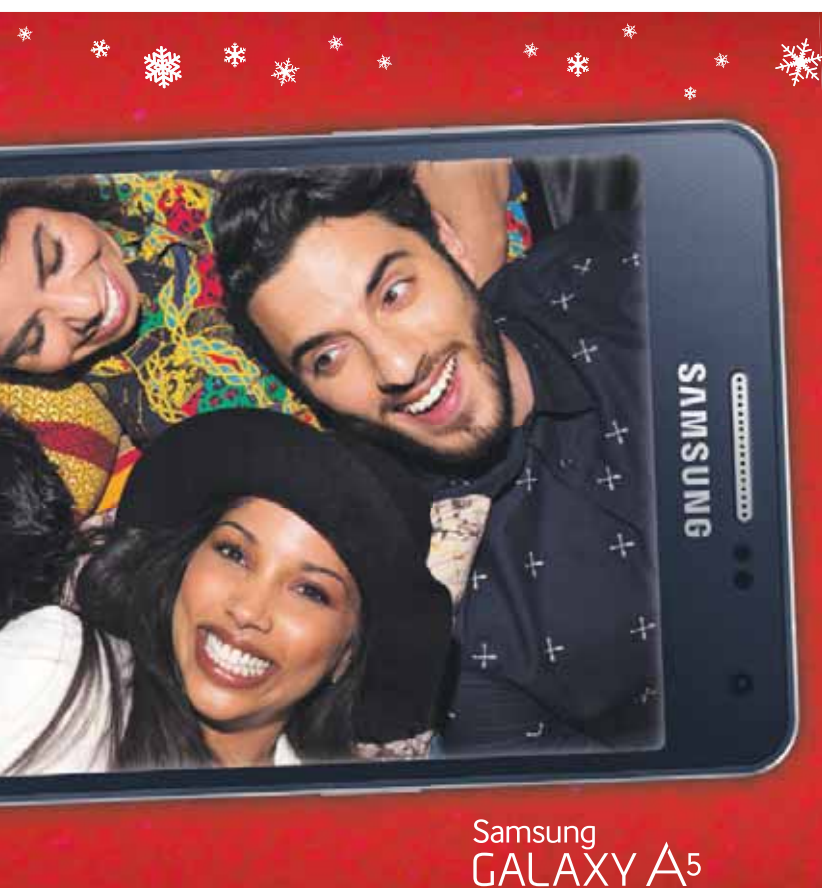
"What am I going to do? Sit around and watch soaps on television all day? That's why I never retired."

Michael Caine

Caine in life."

Wouldn't we all. Though Caine doesn't share his character's melancholy or regret he's similarly reflective — a two-time memoirist and an eager, colourful storyteller. "They say I'm a raconteur but what are you going to do?" he said. "There are stories to tell."

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Gadon 'charmed' by teen Elizabeth

INTERVIEW

The Canadian actress hones a posh accent for royal role

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



For many of us Queen Elizabeth is a face on a stamp, someone we see every day on our money. For Sarah Gadon, the Canadian actress who plays H.R.H. in *A Royal Night Out*, the figurehead is "an icon and it is really always kind of difficult to humanize someone who is embalmed in icon status."

The *Dracula Untold* star plays the Queen before she took the throne, when she was a 20-year-old headstrong woman known to friends as Lilibet. It's May 8, 1945, VE Day in England, the biggest party London has ever seen and Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret (Bel Powley), or P1 and P2 as the princess

sisters are called, want in on the action.

"For six years we've been cloistered," says Princess Elizabeth. "Like nuns," adds Princess Margaret.

"I fell in love so much with this script," says Gadon. "I was charmed by the story and its portrayal of her at that point in her life. It was this beautiful coming of age story about this woman faced with her future. That is something I really related to. That feeling of when you are growing up and you have all these ideas about the world, all these ideologies you are associated with and then you are confronted with reality and you have to decide for yourself what you want. I thought that was an interesting entry point."

The slick talking Liz manages to convince Mom (Emily Watson as the Queen Mum) and Dad (Rupert Everett as King George) to let them mingle with the real people, listen to the King's victory speech and report back.

Royal Night Out is part royal romcom, part urban adventure, and only loosely based on real events. In truth the prin-



Sarah Gadon, left, and Bel Powley play the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. HANDOUT

cesses went out, accompanied by an entourage of 16 people and were home by curfew.

"Julian Jarrold, the director, was so conscious of what he

wanted the tone of this film to be," says Gadon. "We all knew it wasn't a biopic, and none of us wanted to make that film. It is very much a fantasy, very

much an adventure chase film. Being more North American in my approach to the part, my tendencies were to indulge the humour and indulge in

the slapstick moments. Julian held the reins tight and really captured the reserve of Elizabeth. He really walked that line between going off too far in either direction. The film has very real feelings but a lot of tongue-in-cheek."

To capture Queen Elizabeth's posh accent Gadon studied footage of the princess at that age, the movies *Roman Holiday* and *Brief Encounter* and worked with dialect coach Brett Tyne. "Brett worked with all of us," she says. "It wasn't just me. She worked with Bel, Emily and Rupert because even though they're British they certainly don't walk around talking like that."

The dialogue coaching worked. *A Royal Night Out* is already open in England and Gadon notes, "The reviews were great, very generous. And most people had no idea I was Canadian! It was exciting for me."

"I was really, really nervous. To have it received so warmly was such a relief. Now, with the North American release, I'm like, 'I'm good! I got the stamp of approval from the Brits!'"

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In October, *Reuters* reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping \$5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. *Bloomberg Business* says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

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TURNKEY TRAININGS

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

What I don't need is Friday Night Lights, the musical. That's right. Scott Porter will play Coach Taylor in an upcoming production

squirrel!" We're better off not knowing.

But it started with *We Are Marshall*. "You've never seen it?" Simon asked of the 2006 movie starring Matthew McConaughey as a new coach who must put a college football team together after an unthinkable tragedy. "And you call yourself a sports movie lover?"

Next was *Remember the Titans*, the 2000 movie starring Denzel Washington as a new coach who must put a high school football team together after racial segregation ends.

On a roll now, I suggested we watch just the pilot of *Friday Night Lights*. We've already watched all six seasons but I wanted to revisit Coach Taylor, Tami, Riggins and Sara-cen, for old time's sake.

After the pilot, we watched one more. But after that, Simon strongly suggested that we stop. "You will never top

THE SHOW:
Friday Night Lights



THE MEAL:
Leftover pot roast



that episode," he said. "Let's quit while we're ahead."

"Yeah," I said. "You're probably right."

"What are you doing?" "I can't stop and I won't stop. Is there a love scene in this damn show between Coach Taylor and Tami?" I asked, as I topped up our wine glasses with Tami Taylor-size pours. "Because that is what I need right now."

What I don't need is *Friday Night Lights*, the musical. That's right. Scott Porter, the actor who played Jason Street in the television series, will apparently play Coach Taylor in an upcoming production.

"Whenever I read about non-musical stories being turned into musicals," I told Simon as we sipped our wine on the couch, "I think it's got to be a joke, or an SNL skit. I

mean, what's next? *Rocky*, the musical?"

"Uh, *Rocky* was a musical," he said.

How can people suspend their disbelief long enough and not be cynical seeing football players singing? Like singing actual songs! That simply does not fit into my narrative of good sports movies. I want conflict, underdogs, tears and training sequences, not song and dance, unless it's in the end zone. That predictability is precisely what keeps me coming back to movies like *Rocky*, *Breaking Away* and *Hoosiers*, because it's comforting to know exactly what you're going to get.

Just like pot roast. But what no bookie would've placed odds on was that after our Sunday night pot roast accompanied by some FNL, we'd have leftovers. Actual leftovers! So on Monday night, with more FNL, we warmed up a baguette and topped it with the leftover roast, slivers of red onion and beautiful, bitter dandelion greens fried up in olive oil, garlic and chillies.

Clear eyes, full stomachs, can't lose.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.

MEMORABILIA

Ralphie's Red Ryder comes home for Christmas

A museum dedicated to *A Christmas Story* has acquired the holy grail of movie memorabilia: a Red Ryder BB gun wielded by Ralphie in the beloved holiday film.

The Cleveland house where exteriors for the 1983 movie were shot already draws thousands of tourists year round. Now visitors to the adjacent museum will get to lay eyes on the Christmas gift Ralphie longed for most of all: the "Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle with a compass in the stock and this thing which tells time."

Brian Jones, the owner of the house and museum, paid \$10,000 for it on an Internet auction site.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A Christmas Story's
Ralphie. CONTRIBUTED

BREAK & ENTER CHRISTMAS

NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW THAT COULD
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Perfecting the role of a psychopath

JESSICA JONES

David Tennant says key to acting is to keep feeling scared

In person, David Tennant has charm aplenty, but nothing like the control freak he plays in the new Netflix series *Jessica Jones*.

As the villainous Kilgrave, he plagues the show's title character — a lapsed superhero played by Krysten Ritter — with superhuman persuasion. Kilgrave's every wish is Jessica's command.

"There wasn't a massive amount of research I could do to play a mind-controlling psychopath," says Tennant. "At first glance, Kilgrave's power might sound attractive. But what would it really be like to live with?"

Viewers are invited to explore that at their chosen pace, since all 13 episodes of *Jessica Jones*, based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name, are available for streaming on the Netflix website.

Tennant says he's "properly hooked."

"My character doesn't really get going until episodes five or six or seven," he says. "Not being heavily featured in those early episodes allowed me to join them as a viewer without having to stare at myself."

Kilgrave is only the latest in a stable of varied, vivid characters tackled by the Scottish actor. They include a singing-and-dancing lawman in the TV crime drama *Viva Blackpool*; the 10th Doctor in the hallowed *Dr. Who* franchise; Barty Crouch Jr. in the film *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*; and a detective investigating murder in a quiet British village in the hit series *Broadchurch* (plus the same role in the U.S. version that aired on Fox).

Tennant grew up in a small town outside Glasgow. He was the son of a minister, whose line of work, he notes, entails a certain element of theatre, "so I'm sure that, somehow, watching my father 'perform' must have inspired me."

Shielded by youthful idealism from any recognition that "trying to make a living as an actor is a bloody stupid idea," he was accepted at age 17 to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and has

been working since he was 20.

Now a boyish-looking 44, he is asked to explain his acting process. He bursts out laughing, with his insistence that he doesn't have one underscored by the T-shirt he happens to be wearing that proclaims, "Anybody Can Do What I Do."

But then, playing the good sport, he gives it a shot:

"It's a bit like wearing in a pair of shoes," he begins. "You

put them on your feet, and at first they squeak and hurt and you can't really walk. But you LIKE these shoes, so you work away at it until the shoes feel comfortable."

He shakes his head and chuckles again: "What am I saying?!"

A model of humility, Tennant counts himself among those actors "just waiting for someone to tap you on the

shoulder and go, 'Enough, man! We've all had a laugh. Now it's time to stop pretending you're any good at it.' You exist in a constant sense that you're balancing on some very shaky floorboards and at any time it's going to collapse, and you'll be left looking for a job at Starbucks."

But if that's the case, Tennant's balancing act continues to go well, "and I'm very grate-

ful," he says.

"Within the small range of choice you have as an actor, I do tend toward things I haven't done before. My response is, 'What an unusual thing to be asked to do! I should probably say yes to that.' And I feel very lucky that, thus far, my spectrum of choice has been broad enough to keep things bubbling along.

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David Tennant plays the villainous Kilgrave in the new Netflix series *Jessica Jones*. CONTRIBUTED

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comedy

Alberta sisters kick it in holiday show

CHRISTMAS

Dancers say Rockette show is now family tradition

The world-famous Rockettes are supposed to look alike, but fans this Christmas might do a double take — and then a triple.

Three long-legged, athletic sisters from the rural Alberta community of Lacombe — including two identical twins — are in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular lineup.

Landing a job among this high-kicking chorus line is very special. Can three come from the same family?

Meet Kristin, Lisa and Alison Jantzie, celebrating their fourth year as Rockettes together.

"It's kind of wonderful to be onstage with your family," said Alison, dance captain in the recent Broadway show Gigi with Vanessa Hudgens. "We've kind of made this a tradition for ours, obviously."

Kristin, in her 11th Christmas show, was the first to be a Rockette. She and her twin, Lisa, technically the oldest by a few minutes, got their first professional jobs at age 18 at the Tokyo Disney Resort.

Kristin later auditioned for a touring production of the Rockettes in Los Angeles and got the job after showing her skills at tap, jazz and precision dance. Both of her sisters went to see her when the show went to Detroit in 2005.

Lisa looked at the stage and, well, saw herself: "When you

see somebody you know doing something, it kind of does open your eyes to the possibility."

Kristin's sisters eventually joined her at Radio City Music Hall, but took their own routes. Lisa, who gravitates toward ballet, worked at the National Ballet of Canada and Alberta Ballet. She's in her sixth Rockette show.

Alison, the youngest, loves musical theatre and studied at the Randolph Academy in Toronto. She acted in regional productions of *Cats*, *High School Musical* and *Mary Poppins*. She's in her fourth Radio City show.

Some weeks they'll perform 17 shows, and having some sibling love is helpful.

"It's always fun to look across the rehearsal hall and catch their eye and be like, 'OK, here we go, 5-6-7-8. Let's begin!'" said Alison.

They live in New York now, no more than 20 minutes apart. Lisa and Kristin live in the same building, nine floors apart.

They say being Rockettes together is a nice oasis from their competitive careers, which sometimes pits them against each other.

The Jantzies — they have a brother who doesn't dance — credit their mother with encouraging their dreams.

Now every year at Christmas, the Jantzie family gets together in New York to celebrate. The sisters will look out from the stage and see some familiar faces.

"Sometimes our family will wear their holiday sweaters. So we can sometimes pick them out," Kristin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It's kind of wonderful to be onstage with your family.

Alison Jantzie, one of three Canadian sisters that perform together in The Rockettes dance company



Radio City Rockettes Kristin, Alison and Lisa Jantzie are from the rural Alberta community of Lacombe. CARL SCHEFFEL/MSG PHOTOS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Celebrating the city's spirit of hospitality

Accreditation awarded to 67 Edmonton venues

A record number of Edmonton's bars, pubs and clubs were recognized for their commitment to patron and staff safety at the fourth annual Best Bar None awards on Nov. 26.

Owners, management and staff from 67 of Edmonton's licensed premises gathered at the Coast Edmonton Hotel with members of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC), the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Police Service to celebrate the city's spirit of hospitality.

Nine of the accredited venues took home trophies in categories such as best pub, best club, best hotel bar and best restaurant and bar.

In order to achieve Best Bar None status, an establishment is given a checklist with more than 100 industry best practices that range from fire safety to first aid training to a physical inspection of the venue, nearly 50 of which are mandatory.

Participation in the program is voluntary for licensed premises.

"A vibrant nightlife is vital to our city's economy and the businesses that participate in the Best Bar None program have shown exceptional leadership in ensuring their establishments provide a safe experience for patrons," says Scott McKeen, councillor for City of Edmonton.

"Congratulations to the 2015 award winners and nominees. You are helping achieve our vision of a city that is a spirited, safe and welcoming place to live."

The Best Bar None program also operates in Calgary and Grande Prairie.

For a full list of accredited Edmonton venues, visit bestbarnone.ab.ca.



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5

HOT THINGS TO DO IN BARBADOS

This past Monday marked the start of one big, yearlong party in Barbados to celebrate 50 years of independence from Britain — your presence may just be required. Why not start planning your trip now?

DOUG WALLACE METRO



Frying it up at Oistins Bay Gardens. DOUG WALLACE

1 Eat local

The street food trucks and rum-shop takeout counters are crowded with locals and tourists for good reason: They harbour some of the most delicious home cooking you will ever taste. The Oistins fish fry is a Friday-night highlight, with dozens of market stalls sizzling with goodness. And the lineups at Cuz's Fish Stand in the Garrison in Bridgetown are so healthy on weekdays, he takes the weekend off.



Mount Gay is the world's oldest rum brand. DOUG WALLACE

2 Try the rum

Barbados is by all accounts the birthplace of rum. Mega-distiller Mount Gay dates back to 1703, when it was discovered that the molasses they had been discarding after processing the sugar cane fermented quite nicely. Traditional rum "shops," roadside one-room bars where people gather to watch cricket and play dominos, are scattered throughout Barbados. Don't be afraid to belly up for a rum punch or a Banks beer.



The beach at Saint Peter's Bay. CONTRIBUTED

3 Head to the beach

The west and south coasts offer one beach of finely ground coral sand after another — take your pick. Then take a catamaran cruise, go kayaking or paddle-boarding, or just sit on a lounge and enjoy the million different shades of blue.

There are also dozens of dive sites to sink your mask into, with Barbados Blue at Needham's Point Pebbles Beach being the dive shop of choice — an excellent launching point for shipwrecks in Carlisle Bay.



Roiling surf at Bathsheba Bay. DOUG WALLACE

4 Catch a wave

The easygoing east side of Barbados is where locals go to relax on the weekend — or surf. A day trip to the rugged Atlantic coastline of Bathsheba will reveal stunning views, plus a few hints of the island's colonial past, particularly if you venture into the Atlantis Hotel, which dates back to the 1880s. Make a pit stop on the patio before taking a hike along the old railway tracks to watch the surfers at the Soup Bowl, a world-famous reef break.



Watch local and international polo matches. DOUG WALLACE

5 Cheer on the ponies

When the beach gets boring, head to the sports pitch. Cricket isn't the only game in town, either. The popularity of polo in Barbados reaches back to the island's colonial roots, the first match being played in 1884. The Polo Club regulates four playing fields, welcoming international teams in a season that runs from January through May. Prince Charles and Prince Harry have both played polo here many times.

ONLINE
Go to
visitbarbados.
org for more.

Panama on the cusp of shining brightly

ON THE MOVE

A wild rafting tour just one way to see this lively country

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada



On Day 4 of a G Adventures trip to Panama a protest over government infrastructure projects by the local indigenous people forced our group of 15 intrepid travellers off the bus and into the heat for almost two hours.

Happily a nearby store, equipped with basic bathrooms guarded by chickens, sold us some beers to enjoy while we waited it out. The experience was a little uncomfortable but charmingly genuine and typical of what to expect when travelling in Panama, Central America's diamond in the rough.

Boquete offers limited services in terms of restaurants and hotels but is doing an admirable job staking its claim as Panama's adventure capital.

Located close to the Costa Rican border, the town is set within a lush mountain valley dotted with coffee plantations and offers travellers a variety of hard and soft experiences from zip-lining and horseback riding to a variety of hikes including an overnight journey up an extinct volcano.



UNESCO-protected Casco Viejo is what I suspect Havana will look like in 10 years.

I took a whitewater rafting tour through some intimidating rapids that saw my 200-pound raft mate swept over the side! While I was definitely thankful for our fearless guide, Tini, I was more thankful to have the river to ourselves; we did not see one other raft during our four-hour excursion.

Our destination on Day 4 was Bocas Del Toro, a collection of beautiful palm tree-covered islands that are mostly

populated by surfboard-toting backpackers. The only town of any size, Bocas Town, is mostly made up of hostels and waterfront bars and exudes a laid-back charm. Chatting over morning coffee at The Coffee Shop with owner and self-professed soul surfer Ernesto Velasquez was as much a highlight as spotting baby dolphins and sloths on a boat trip to Coral Cay.

Panama City's UNESCO-protected Casco Viejo is what I suspect Havana will look like in 10 years if the Cuban capital receives the predicted influx of American cash. The formerly derelict colonial buildings in the Panamanian capital are well into the process of being restored to their former grandeur. Many are already home to funky bars, incredible restaurants and shops.

I ate my last dinner at The Fish Market, a pop-up food truck parked in the middle of the crumbling walls and columns of a yet-to-be-reclaimed building. The white wine was terrible, the fish tacos were good, but the energy I felt from a place that is truly on the cusp of shining brightly was infectious.



The Coffee Shop in Bocas Town on Isla Colon, with owner Ernesto. PETER REMUS

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Find meaning with gift giving

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Listen up, be unique and find a theme

Astrid Van Den Broek

You finally did it. You've trimmed down your gift-giving list so you're giving out fewer chocolate truffle filled coffee mugs to people you barely know and thus can spend more on those nearest and dear to you. So what to get when you've got a little bit of cash? How can you pick truly memorable gifts? We asked gift bloggers for their thoughts on selecting the perfect gift.

BE A LISTENER

"Listen closely to the people in your life," says Lindsay Roberts Schey, founder of the blog TheGiftInsider.com. "Many people unintentionally mention things they really want or need or some may drop

subtle hints at what they are really hoping for." If you're not good at listening in, rely on how well you know them and give some thoughts to their interests and hobbies. "There are hundreds of gifts out there associated with even the most obscure hobbies and tastes," says Roberts Schey. "If you find a few smaller items, put them together in a themed gift set because everyone likes to get lots of presents."

Really stumped? "Another gift idea goldmine is a person's Pinterest or personal Facebook page," suggests Marie Anakee Miczak, the New York-based blogger behind gavethat.com.

GO FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

"Try to give experience-based gifts such as a subscription box service, passes to the movies or a gift card to a local coffee shop," suggests Miczak. Make it harmonize by packaging movie gift certificates with a bag of liquorice or some packages of microwave popcorn to hit the theme

home or pair a lovely bath towel set with a bag of scented Epsom salts.

THINK UNIQUE...

... and something that you would like to get. "The best gifts are the ones that people absolutely love but just wouldn't buy for themselves or would buy for themselves but you found it first," says Lisa Pozin, the Vancouver-based owner of Giving Gifts.

OR THEMED

Like books, calendars or sports items. "Start the habit of having 'signature gift' for each type of person on your list," says Roberts Schey. "It saves you time and you end up having your own 'style' of gift-giving each season."

Also think about grouping items together to complete a theme if you can't find a substantial enough gift to give to someone on your list. Package them in a practical vessel like a chic ice bucket or square vase to complete the look, adds Roberts Schey.



How do you pick your gifts to elicit a response like this? iStock



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SCENTS FOR HER

Strong, sexy, sweet, gentle and unexpected, this selection of the best gift-worthy scents speaks to the many facets of the women on your list.

L'Occitane Pierre Hermé Grapefruit Rhubarb

When the chef behind the world's best macarons uses his exceptional senses to create perfume, delightful things happen. This fresh, spicy eau de toilette is lively and sweet without being sugary. \$65 at L'Occitane en Provence, ca.loccitane.com.



men. Give it to your other half with a "let's share" and a wink. \$107 at birchbox.ca.

Tory Birch Holiday Cracker and Candle

The fashion designer's signature crisp floral charms with festive wrapping; pair it with the luxurious candle scented with the same fragrance for home. \$31 and \$72 at Sephora, sephora.ca.



Atelier Cologne Neccsaire Azure Gift Set

Each of the four travel-sized atomizers in this collection is a fragrant escape to the Italian coast, evocative of deep blue sky and sea, and sunny, citrus-scented breezes. \$32 at Sephora, sephora.ca.



Nina Ricci L'Extase

Deeply sensual with heady florals, musk, amber and caramel, this oriental is about smooth warm skin and ruffled, 1000-threadcount Egyptian cotton sheets. \$95 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



Miu Miu Miu Miu

The first fragrance from Miuccia Prada's Miu Miu label is a bright, alluring floral perfume, youthful and sweet, with a hint of nostalgia. The only thing missing is a display case for its unique and wonderful bottle. \$135 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.



Dior J'Adore Touche de Parfum

A new concept for Dior, this intensely floral dabber, anchored with musk and sandalwood, is designed to enhance whatever's whetted on top... such as Poison or the J'Adore she already owns and loves. \$112 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



The Body Shop Black Musk

Fourth in the very successful range that started with White Musk in 1981, this dark and sweet gourmand-rich oriental floods the senses with marzipan, almond, licorice root, black vanilla and black musk. Choose from eau de toilette, eau de parfum and perfume oil — or give her all three. From \$25 at The Body Shop, thebodyshop.ca.



Scents for Him

SCENTS FOR HIM

Fragrance is all about personality. Our roundup has one for every guy on your "nice" list — and maybe your "naughty" list too.

Aramis Black

A new urban-man eau de toilette that goes from the office to happy hour, this scent starts with bold, crisp, green leafy notes and gradually develops its aromatic side — juniper wood sweetened with tonka bean and rich cognac, smoky leather and white incense. \$64 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.



Floris No. 89

A British scent released in 1951, this is for the well-dressed retro fellow in your life. A traditional woody aromatic with citrus and rose, it finishes with woods, moss and musk. Fun fact: Bond creator Ian Fleming was a fan. \$105 at menessentials.ca.

L'Occitane Eau de Cedrat

Could be his Monday-morning best mate, with its eye-opening burst of bright, citrusy bergamot, that soon softens to spicy nutmeg, ginger and smooth, woody notes. \$58 at L'Occitane en Provence, ca.loccitane.com.



Prada Luna Rossa Sport

Most "sport" scents are all about invigorating freshness. This eau de toilette is softer, warmer and sweeter, with juniper berries, lavender, vanilla and tonka beans. He'll wear it after the game, for congratulatory cocktails to celebrate his win. \$72 at Murale, murale.ca, and Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.



The Vagabond Prince Land of Warriors

For old-world warriors on horseback or tatted, modern weekend warriors on bikes — this niche eau de parfum is all about leather, worn-in like a well-loved moto jacket, with notes of rum, woods and tar. \$200 at menessentials.ca.



Giorgio Armani Acqua di Gio Profumo

A follow-up to immensely successful sea-and-citrus Acqua di Gio (which debuted almost 20 years ago), this elegant scent is a darker version, with marine and spicy notes that break over patchouli and incense. \$109 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



Thierry Mugler A*Men Ultra Zest

Newest in Mugler's lineup of A*Men scents, this bold eau de toilette opens with a splash of juicy sweet orange and ginger and develops with coffee notes, cinnamon, pepper, vanilla, patchouli and tonka. Mugler fans will dig it like dessert. Limited edition, \$99 at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca, and Jean Coutu, jeancoutu.com.



Penhaligon's Juniper Sling

For the guy who likes a good early hike followed by a hot toddy to temper the chill, this eau de toilette begins with the freshness of fragrant pine on a crisp morning and warms up with leather, cinnamon and cardamom, plus cherry, sugar and amber for a sweet hit. \$195 at menessentials.ca.



Valentino Uomo Edition Noire

The graphic matte black bottle broadcasts the personality of this eau de toilette, a potent oriental fragrance with cedar, hazelnut, leather, chocolate and roasted coffee bean notes. \$98 at Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.



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Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving, who broke his left kneecap during Game 2 of the NBA Finals last season, has been fully cleared to practise



Eskimos retain Canadian slotback Watson

The Edmonton Eskimos avoided free agency with Canadian slotback Cory Watson on Thursday by signing him to a contract extension through the 2017 season.

Watson had 42 catches for 319 yards and three touchdowns last season.

He added two catches for 26 yards last Sunday in the Eskimos' Grey Cup victory over the Ottawa Redblacks.

Watson, a native of Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., is a six-year CFL veteran. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ray extends his tenure in blue by two years

The Toronto Argonauts and 36-year-old quarterback Ricky Ray have reached a contract agreement that will keep Ray in Double Blue for two more seasons. Financial terms in the two-year deal were not revealed.

Ray, a 13-year CFL veteran who has been in Toronto since 2012, was set to become a free agent on Feb. 9.

While the dollar figure was not released, it's said to be structured to leave enough cap room to resign QB Trevor Harris as well.

In another move Thursday, the Argos named veteran coach Rich Stabler defensive co-ordinator, marking his third stint with the CFL club.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oh n-Oshie didn't: Caps edge Habs on late goal

NHL

Washington continues dominance in Montreal

T.J. Oshie's second goal of the game broke a tie in the third period and lifted the Washington Capitals to a 3-2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night.

Tom Wilson also scored for Washington (18-5-1), which posted a sixth consecutive victory despite being outshot 35-19.

Lars Eller and Brian Flynn scored for Montreal (19-5-3), which ended a six-game run without a regulation time loss.

The Capitals improved to 10-0-2 in games at the Bell Centre since 2009 and goalie Braden Holtby ran his career record against Montreal to 7-0-2.

Washington needed Holtby at his best as the Canadiens outworked the Capitals most of the game and had the majority of scoring chances.

Mike Condon, replacing injured Carey Price in the Montreal net, allowed three goals on his first 16 shots.

The Capitals scored on their first shot of the game as Brooks Laich picked off a pass in the Montreal zone and fed Wilson for a quick shot that found a way through Condon's legs.



Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby makes a save against Canadiens forward Max Pacioretty as John Carlson defends in Montreal on Thursday night. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadiens were outshooting Washington 13-1 in the second period alone when they finally beat Holtby as Eller slipped the puck under his pads from the edge of the crease at 10:08 — two seconds after a power play expired.

But with 44 seconds left in the period, Oshie's shot deflected off Condon high in air, landed on the goalie's shoulder

THURSDAY In Montreal

3 CAPITALS **2** CANADIENS

and fell into the net.

The Canadiens got their sixth short-handed goal of the season 2:30 into the third when Paul

Byron won a battle for the puck along the boards and sent Flynn on a breakaway to deke Holtby and score.

But Oshie deflected a Karl Alzner shot in the slot and saw the puck go in off the post at 8:17 for the eventual winner.

The Canadiens next play at Carolina while Washington moves on to Winnipeg, both on Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IN OTTAWA

Hoffman helps Senators polish off Blackhawks in OT

Mike Hoffman scored his second goal of the game 30 seconds into overtime as the Ottawa Senators defeated the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3.

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Pistorius guilty of murder on appeal

TRIAL Athlete initially imprisoned on lesser charge of manslaughter

Oscar Pistorius was convicted of murder on Thursday by a South African appeals court that described the once-glittering story of the double-amputee Olympian and Reeve Steenkamp, the girlfriend he killed in his home in 2013, as "a human tragedy of Shakespearean proportions."

The Supreme Court of Appeal overturned a lower court's conviction on the less serious charge of manslaughter, adding another twist to a case that riveted people around the world because of its gripping saga of a celebrity athlete's plunge from grace by his own hand.

"The accused ought to have been found guilty of murder on the basis that he had fired the fatal shots with criminal intent," Justice Lorimer Eric Leach said in court in Blomfontein, as Steenkamp's mother, June, sat impassively. Pistorius was not there.

The murder conviction means Pistorius will almost certainly go back to jail, where he spent one year of a five-year prison sentence before being put under house arrest at his uncle's mansion in Pretoria in October. The minimum sentence for murder in South Africa is 15 years, but exceptional circumstances in the case of the former track star, including time already served, his disability and status as a first-time offender, could mean he'll get a lower sentence.

Sentencing is up to the North Gauteng High Court, where Pistorius was tried. South African media said Judge Thokozile Masipa, who presided over the original trial, will handle the matter. No sentencing date has been set.

Pistorius, a multiple Paralympic champion, became the first amputee to run at the Olympics and the able-bodied world champion. He was known as "Blade

Runner" for his carbon-fiber running blades.

"This case involves a human tragedy of Shakespearean proportions," Leach said while delivering the ruling on behalf of the five-judge appeals court.

"A young man overcomes huge physical disabilities to reach Olympian heights as an athlete," he said. "In doing so he becomes an international celebrity. He meets a young woman of great natural beauty and a successful

model. Romance blossoms and then ironically, on Valentine's Day, all is destroyed when he takes her life." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Oscar Pistorius
GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB Atkins is named new Jays GM

New team president Mark Shapiro is turning to a close friend to fill the Toronto Blue Jays' general manager position.

Longtime Cleveland Indians executive Ross Atkins was named GM and executive vice-president of baseball operations on Thursday. Atkins most recently served as the Indians' vice-president of player personnel under Shapiro.

Assistant general manager

Tony LaCava, who served as interim GM after the departure of Alex Anthopoulos, has been promoted to senior vice-president of baseball operations, the team said in a release.

Shapiro and Atkins will hold a media availability Friday morning at Rogers Centre.

Shapiro, a former general manager with Cleveland, became Toronto's new president last month. He succeeded Paul

Beeston, who retired at the end of October.

Atkins, a 42-year-old native of Greensboro, N.C., will be the seventh general manager in franchise history. The former pitcher was drafted by Cleveland in 1995 and spent his entire pro career with the Indians organization. He interviewed in the past for GM openings in Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

DeRozan's 34 not enough as Nuggets come out on top

The Denver Nuggets spoiled a 34-point performance by DeMar DeRozan on Thursday, handing the Toronto Raptors a 106-105 loss. Will Barton scored 22 points to top the Nuggets (7-13), while Danilo Gallinari added 21. Kyle Lowry had 16 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lead changes hands 38 times before Wade strikes

Dwyane Wade scored 28 points, including two free throws with 1.5 seconds left that put Miami ahead to stay and the Heat topped the Oklahoma City Thunder 97-95 on Thursday, in a wild back-and-forth game that featured 38 lead changes and 11 ties.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maple Ridge player named top Canadian in minors

Outfielder Tyler O'Neill has been awarded the Canadian Baseball Network's Randy Echlin Memorial Award as the top Canadian in the minors for 2015. O'Neill hit 32 home runs with the class-A Bakersfield Blaze in the Seattle Mariners farm system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Mini Lamb Burgers



PHOTO: MAMA VINNYE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Celebrate making it to Friday with delicious burgers with big flavour.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 lb ground lamb
- 1/4 cup red onion, finely minced
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 English cucumber, seeded and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp fresh mint, finely chopped
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 8 to 10 mini pitas
- Lettuce leaves, washed and torn
- Tomatoes, sliced

Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix together lamb, onion, parsley and spices and combine well. Cover and place in the fridge.
2. In a medium sized bowl, mix cucumber, yogurt, lemon juice, mint, garlic and salt and pepper and stir.
3. Take meat out of the fridge and form 8 to 10 small patties. Place them on a clean plate. Heat your grill or pan to medium, medium-high heat and add a bit of vegetable oil. Cook your burgers, about 5 minutes on each side until the internal temperature is 160 F. Work in batches so you don't over crowd the pan.
4. Cut each pita in half and tuck in a lamb patty, some lettuce, tomato and a good dollop of the tzatziki-ish sauce.

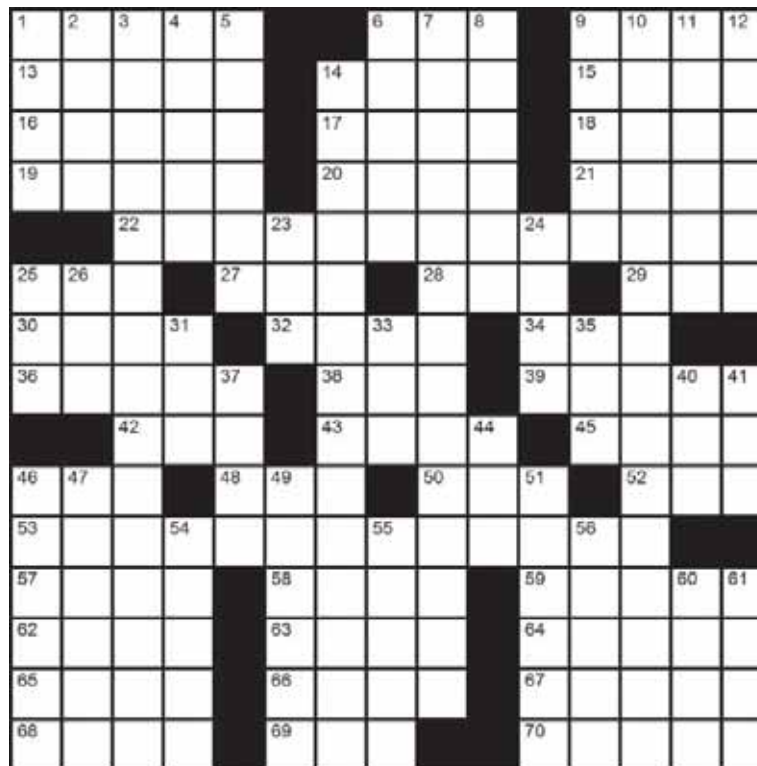
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Flapjacks flavouring's flavour
6. "I Am Legend" (2007) star ...his initials-sharers
9. Sniffy state
13. Another time
14. Nightclub in a Barry Manilow hit, briefly
15. "Be ___!" (Help out!)
16. Go-___ (Fun vehicles)
17. Throughout
18. Alphabet sequence
19. Prefix to 'dentist' (Braces giver)
20. Nasty
21. Nero's 651
22. Manager of the same-named band, as per #3-Down: 2 wds.
25. Numerical prefix
27. Moviedom's Melissa
28. Consume
29. '70s records
30. Actress Cheryl
32. Intermission, ___acte
34. Diminutive
36. Pre-university Quebec school
38. WWII soldiers
39. Ms. Spelling's
42. Farm animal
43. 'Opal' suffix
45. Ms. Campbell
46. Clod
48. Moulder
50. "Papa-___ Mow-Mow"
52. No. to call
53. Invading naval



fleet defeated by England in 1588: 2 wds.
57. Bloody prefix
58. Violinist, Hilary ___
59. Blown snow formation
62. Botanical leaf-to-stem angle

63. Fencer's need
64. One distributing things, say
65. Sound
66. On ___ with (Equal to)
67. Christmas poem bit: "...not ___ mouse."
68. "...so long ___

both shall live?"
69. Director Mr. Pollock, briefly
70. Not like The Fonz

DOWN

1. Shark variety
- Food thickener
- 1970s music-

themed sitcom, with The: 2 wds.
4. Willowy
5. Spiritualize
6. Fabricated on a loom
7. Canada's legendary opinion-giving video booth: 2 wds.
8. Ontario city on Lake

Huron where #51-Down was born
9. ___ (The first letter of Calgary, compared to the first letter of Celine)
10. Holt Renfrew, for example: 2 wds.
11. Boxer's injury: 2 wds.
12. Liquids
14. Theme song for #3-Down: 4 wds.
23. Hive denizen
24. Food package abbr.: 2 wds.
25. "Say Yes to the Dress" network
26. 'After It All': Current album by folk rock group Delta ___
31. Lawn's morning blanket
33. Christmas-y contraction
35. Geological period
37. Prefix to 'scope'
40. 'Excess' suffix
41. ___ et poivre
44. Last day in December, e.g.
46. City on Lake Ontario east of Toronto
47. Highest points
49. Milo of "Romeo and Juliet" (1968), and surnamesakes
51. Dave ___ (Canadian-born actor who portrayed #22-Across)
54. ___ prosequi (Not proceeding, in law)
55. Onward
56. Took the car
60. Deflect/protect
61. Restaurant order holder

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You may have suspicions about someone's motives but don't go public with them. Even if you're right it will look like you are being vindictive. Your reputation could suffer most.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be careful with cash because you could easily make a costly mistake. What seems like a good idea now may turn out to be anything but later on, so err on the side of caution.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
No matter how well intentioned your words may be others are sure to take them the wrong way, so be careful what you say. Tomorrow everything will be back to normal and everyone will be on your side again.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may struggle to stay on top of your workload but the deadlines you've set are unnecessary — no one will think less of you if you fail to meet them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Creatively and romantically there is potential but today's Mercury-Jupiter link could tempt you to go too far. Don't start anything you may not be able to finish and don't make promises you may not be able to keep.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Disruption is inevitable today. Whatever happens, keep telling yourself that it's not as bad as it seems and keep your emotions in check. It's not worth getting worked up about.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't make hasty decisions, especially if you like to make social and travel plans on the spur of the moment. What seems like such a good idea now may seem very different by this time tomorrow.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may feel out of your depth and you may be tempted to give up but if you do you will regret it in a matter of days. Hang in there.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be rather emotional, even if you are the kind of Sagittarius who usually treats life as one big joke. Once in a while though it is good to let it all out, so make a noise if you have to. You will feel better for it.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may not be the type to make changes once you've made up your mind about something but you may not have a choice today. You are not in control of events — events are in control of you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Usually you don't care if others disapprove of what you're doing but if you're smart you'll make an effort to care. No matter how self-reliant — make an effort to work with others.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not be able to control what happens but you can control the way you react. The more others try to mess with you the more you must strive to stay serene.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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